United Nations A/62/431

General Assembly

Distr.: General
26 November 2007

Original: English

Sixty-second session
Agenda item 42

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Tebatso Future **Baleseng** (Botswana)

I. Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 21 September 2007, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-second session the item entitled "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions" and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Third Committee considered the item at its 40th, 41st, 43rd, 46th, 48th and 51st meetings, on 8, 9, 14, 15, 19 and 21 November 2007. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/62/SR.40, 41, 43, 46, 48 and 51).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;[1]

(b) Report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;[2]

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa (A/62/316);

(d) Letter dated 18 October 2007 from the representative of Pakistan to the Secretary-General, transmitting the final communiqué of the annual coordination meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 12* (A/62/12).
[2] Ibid., *Supplement No. 12A* (A/62/12/Add.1).

Organization of the Islamic Conference, held at United Nations Headquarters on 2 October 2007 (A/62/507-S/2007/636).

4. At the 40th meeting, on 8 November, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees made an introductory statement, and the Committee engaged in a dialogue with the High Commissioner, in which the representatives of the Sudan, Iraq, Georgia, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt and Burundi and the observer for Palestine participated (see A/C.3/62/SR.40).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.64

5. At the 46th meeting, on 15 November, the representative of Luxembourg, on behalf of Benin, Luxembourg, Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees" (A/C.3/62/L.64). Subsequently, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Ecuador, Egypt, Japan, Lebanon and Romania joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

6. At its 48th meeting, on 19 November, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.64 without a vote (see para. 17, draft resolution I).

B. Draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.67

8. At the 43rd meeting, on 14 November, the representative of Denmark, on behalf of Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, the Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, the Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Peru, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America, Uruguay and Zambia, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees" (A/C.3/62/L.67). Subsequently, Azerbaijan, the Bahamas, Belarus, Belize, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Cape Verde, China, Colombia, Cyprus, Dominica, Eritrea, the Gambia, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Mauritania, Micronesia (Federated States of), Moldova, Mozambique, the Niger, Paraguay, the Philippines, the Russian

Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Swaziland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey and Turkmenistan joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

9. At its 48th meeting, on 19 November, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

10. At the same meeting, the representative of Denmark orally revised operative paragraph 18 of the draft resolution by inserting the words "and, in particular, the need to address in this process the root causes of refugee movements in order to avert new flows of refugees" at the end of the paragraph.

11. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.67, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 17, draft resolution II).

12. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of Cuba; after the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representatives of the Syrian Arab Republic and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (see A/C.3/62/SR.48).

C. Draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.82

13. At the 48th meeting, on 19 November, the representative of Angola, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa" (A/C.3/62/L.82). Subsequently, Afghanistan, Albania, Antigua and Barbuda, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Finland, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey and the United States of America joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

14. At its 51st meeting, on 21 November, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

15. At the same meeting, the representative of Angola orally revised the draft resolution as follows:

(a) After the second preambular paragraph, two new paragraphs were inserted, reading:

> "*Recognizing* the particular vulnerability of women and children among refugees and other persons of concern, including exposure to discrimination and sexual and physical abuse,
>
> "*Recognizing also* that refugees, internally displaced persons and, in particular, women and children are at an increased risk of exposure to HIV/AIDS, malaria and other infectious diseases";

(b) Operative paragraph 10, which read:

"*Recalls* that the protection of children is primarily the responsibility of States, whose full and effective cooperation, action and political resolve are required to enable the Office of the High Commissioner to fulfil its mandated functions",

was deleted.

16. Also at its 51st meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.82, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 17, draft resolution III).

III. Recommendations of the Third Committee

17. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The General Assembly,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council decision 2007/254 of 26 July 2007 concerning the enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

Taking note also of the requests regarding the enlargement of the Executive Committee contained in the letter dated 29 November 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Benin to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General,[1] the letter dated 8 January 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General,[2] the letter dated 28 June 2007 from the Permanent Representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General[3] and the note verbale dated 10 May 2007 from the Permanent Mission of Montenegro to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General,[4]

1. *Decides* to increase the number of members of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees from seventy-two to seventy-six States;

2. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council to elect the additional members at its resumed organizational session for 2008.

[1] E/2006/92.
[2] E/2007/11.
[3] E/2007/85.
[4] E/2007/86.

Draft resolution II
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the activities of his Office[1] and the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the work of its fifty-eighth session[2] and the conclusions and decisions contained therein,

Recalling its previous annual resolutions on the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees since its establishment by the General Assembly,

Expressing its appreciation for the leadership shown by the High Commissioner, commending the staff and implementing partners of the Office of the High Commissioner for the competent, courageous and dedicated manner in which they discharge their responsibilities, and underlining its strong condemnation of all forms of violence to which humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel are increasingly exposed,

1. *Endorses* the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the work of its fifty-eighth session;[2]

2. *Welcomes* the important work undertaken by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and its Executive Committee in the course of the year, which is aimed at strengthening the international protection regime and at assisting Governments in meeting their protection responsibilities;

3. *Notes with appreciation* the important guidance provided in the Executive Committee conclusion on children at risk[3] to address issues of identification of these individuals and action to be taken in prevention, response and solutions;

4. *Reaffirms* the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees[4] and the 1967 Protocol thereto[5] as the foundation of the international refugee protection regime, recognizes the importance of their full and effective application by States parties and the values they embody, notes with satisfaction that one hundred and forty-seven States are now parties to one instrument or to both, encourages States not parties to consider acceding to those instruments, underlines in particular the importance of full respect for the principle of non-refoulement, and recognizes that a number of States not parties to the international refugee instruments have shown a generous approach to hosting refugees;

5. *Notes* that sixty-two States are now parties to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons[6] and that thirty-four States are parties to

---

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 12* (A/62/12).
[2] Ibid., *Supplement No. 12A* (A/62/12/Add.1).
[3] Ibid., chap. III, sect. A.
[4] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545.
[5] Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.
[6] Ibid., vol. 360, No. 5158.

the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness,[7] encourages States that have not done so to give consideration to acceding to those instruments, notes the work of the High Commissioner in regard to identifying stateless persons, preventing and reducing statelessness and protecting stateless persons, and urges the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to work in this area in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions and Executive Committee conclusions;

6. *Re-emphasizes* that the protection of refugees is primarily the responsibility of States, whose full and effective cooperation, action and political resolve are required to enable the Office of the High Commissioner to fulfil its mandated functions, and strongly emphasizes, in this context, the importance of active international solidarity and burden- and responsibility-sharing;

7. *Also re-emphasizes* that prevention and reduction of statelessness are primarily the responsibility of States, in appropriate cooperation with the international community;

8. *Further re-emphasizes* that protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons are primarily the responsibility of States, in appropriate cooperation with the international community;

9. *Takes note* of the current activities of the Office of the High Commissioner related to protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons, including in the context of inter-agency arrangements in this field, emphasizes that such activities should be consistent with relevant General Assembly resolutions and should not undermine the mandate of the Office for refugees and the institution of asylum, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue his dialogue with States on the role of his Office in this regard;

10. *Notes with appreciation* the process of structural and management change being undertaken by the Office of the High Commissioner, and encourages the Office to continue its pursuit of reforms, including the implementation of a results-based management framework and strategy, that would enable it to respond adequately and in a more efficient manner to the needs of its beneficiaries and ensure effective and transparent use of its resources;

11. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to pursue its efforts to strengthen its capacity to respond adequately to emergencies and thereby ensure a more predictable response to inter-agency commitments in case of emergency;

12. *Strongly condemns* attacks on refugees, asylum-seekers and internally displaced persons as well as acts that pose a threat to their personal security and well-being, and calls upon all concerned States and, where applicable, parties involved in an armed conflict to take all necessary measures to ensure respect for human rights and international humanitarian law;

13. *Deplores* the refoulement and unlawful expulsion of refugees and asylum-seekers, and calls upon all concerned States to ensure respect for the relevant principles of refugee protection and human rights;

14. *Emphasizes* that international protection of refugees is a dynamic and action-oriented function that is at the core of the mandate of the Office of the High Commissioner and that it includes, in cooperation with States and other partners, the

[7] Ibid., vol. 989, No. 14458.

promotion and facilitation of, inter alia, the admission, reception and treatment of refugees in accordance with internationally agreed standards and the ensuring of durable, protection-oriented solutions, bearing in mind the particular needs of vulnerable groups and paying special attention to those with specific needs, and notes in this context that the delivery of international protection is a staff-intensive service that requires adequate staff with the appropriate expertise, especially at the field level;

15. *Affirms* the importance of age, gender and diversity mainstreaming in analysing protection needs and in ensuring the participation of refugees and other persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner, as appropriate, in the planning and implementation of programmes of the Office and State policies, and also affirms the importance of according priority to addressing discrimination, gender inequality and the problem of sexual and gender-based violence, recognizing the importance of addressing the protection needs of women and children in particular;

16. *Strongly reaffirms* the fundamental importance and the purely humanitarian and non-political character of the function of the Office of the High Commissioner of providing international protection to refugees and seeking permanent solutions to refugee problems, and recalls that those solutions include voluntary repatriation and, where appropriate and feasible, local integration and resettlement in a third country, while reaffirming that voluntary repatriation, supported, as necessary, by rehabilitation and development assistance to facilitate sustainable reintegration, remains the preferred solution;

17. *Expresses concern* about the particular difficulties faced by the millions of refugees in protracted situations, and emphasizes the need to redouble international efforts and cooperation to find practical and comprehensive approaches to resolving their plight and to realize durable solutions for them, consistent with international law and relevant General Assembly resolutions;

18. *Recognizes* the importance of achieving durable solutions to refugee problems and, in particular, the need to address in this process the root causes of refugee movements in order to avert new flows of refugees;

19. *Recalls* the important role of effective partnerships and coordination in meeting the needs of refugees and in finding durable solutions to their situations, welcomes the efforts under way, in cooperation with countries hosting refugees and countries of origin, including their respective local communities, relevant United Nations agencies, international and intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations, as appropriate, non-governmental organizations and development actors, to promote a framework for durable solutions, particularly in protracted refugee situations, which includes an approach to sustainable and timely return which encompasses repatriation, reintegration, rehabilitation and reconstruction activities, and encourages States, in cooperation with relevant United Nations agencies, international and intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations and development actors, to support, inter alia, through the allocation of funds, the implementation of such a framework to facilitate an effective transition from relief to development;

20. *Recognizes* that no solution to displacement can be durable unless it is sustainable, and therefore encourages the Office of the High Commissioner to support the sustainability of return and reintegration;

21. *Welcomes* the progress that has been achieved in increasing the number of refugees resettled and the number of States offering opportunities for resettlement, and the contribution that those States make to durable solutions to refugees, and invites interested States, the Office of the High Commissioner and other relevant partners to make use of the Multilateral Framework of Understandings on Resettlement,[8] where appropriate and feasible;

22. *Notes* the progress that is being made by interested States and the Office of the High Commissioner to take forward elements outlined in the Mexico Plan of Action to Strengthen International Protection of Refugees in Latin America, adopted on 16 November 2004,[8] and expresses its support for the efforts to promote its implementation with the cooperation and assistance of the international community, as appropriate, as well as by supporting host communities that receive large numbers of persons who require international protection;

23. *Also notes* that some progress is being made by interested States and the Office of the High Commissioner within the context of the European-Asian Programme on Forced Displacement and Migration on issues related to asylum and forced displacement, consistent with the mandate of the Office;

24. *Further notes* the importance of States and the Office of the High Commissioner discussing and clarifying the role of the Office in mixed migratory flows, in order to better address protection needs in the context of mixed migratory flows, including by safeguarding access to asylum for those in need of international protection, and notes the readiness of the High Commissioner, consistent with his mandate, to assist States in fulfilling their protection responsibilities in this regard;

25. *Emphasizes* the obligation of all States to accept the return of their nationals, calls upon States to facilitate the return of their nationals who have been determined not to be in need of international protection, and affirms the need for the return of persons to be undertaken in a safe and humane manner and with full respect for their human rights and dignity, irrespective of the status of the persons concerned;

26. *Notes* the increasing number of displaced in and from Iraq and the impact of those flows of persons on the social and economic situation of countries in the region, expresses its appreciation for the convening of an international conference in April 2007 at Geneva in order to sensitize the international community to the deteriorating plight of those persons inside Iraq and outside its borders, and calls upon the international community to act in a targeted and coordinated manner to provide protection and increased assistance to the persons displaced to enable the countries in the region to strengthen their capacity to respond to the needs in partnership with the Office of the High Commissioner, other United Nations agencies, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and non-governmental organizations;

27. *Urges* all States and relevant non-governmental and other organizations, in conjunction with the Office of the High Commissioner, in a spirit of international

[8] Available from www.unhcr.org.

solidarity and burden- and responsibility-sharing, to cooperate and to mobilize resources with a view to enhancing the capacity of and reducing the heavy burden borne by host countries, in particular those that have received large numbers of refugees and asylum-seekers, and calls upon the Office to continue to play its catalytic role in mobilizing assistance from the international community to address the root causes as well as the economic, environmental and social impact of large-scale refugee populations in developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, and countries with economies in transition;

28. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner to further explore ways and means to broaden its donor base, so as to achieve greater burden-sharing by reinforcing cooperation with governmental donors, non-governmental donors and the private sector;

29. *Recognizes* that adequate and timely resources are essential for the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to fulfil the mandate conferred upon it through its statute[9] and by subsequent General Assembly resolutions on refugees and other persons of concern, recalls its resolutions 58/153 of 22 December 2003, 58/270 of 23 December 2003, 59/170 of 20 December 2004, 60/129 of 16 December 2005 and 61/137 of 19 December 2006 concerning, inter alia, the implementation of paragraph 20 of the statute of the Office, and urges Governments and other donors to respond promptly to annual and supplementary appeals issued by the Office for requirements under its programmes;

30. *Requests* the High Commissioner to report on his activities to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session.

[9] Resolution 428 (V), annex.

Draft resolution III
Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Organization of African Unity Convention governing the specific aspects of refugee problems in Africa of 1969[1] and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights,[2]

Reaffirming that the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees,[3] together with the 1967 Protocol thereto,[4] as complemented by the Organization of African Unity Convention of 1969, remains the foundation of the international refugee protection regime in Africa,

Recognizing the particular vulnerability of women and children among refugees and other persons of concern, including exposure to discrimination and sexual and physical abuse,

Recognizing also that refugees, internally displaced persons and, in particular, women and children are at an increased risk of exposure to HIV/AIDS, malaria and other infectious diseases,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General[5] and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;[6]

2. *Notes* the need for African States to address resolutely root causes of all forms of forced displacement in Africa and to foster peace, stability and prosperity throughout the African continent so as to forestall refugee flows;

3. *Notes with great concern* that, despite all of the efforts made so far by the United Nations, the African Union and others, the situation of refugees and displaced persons in Africa remains precarious, and calls upon States and other parties to armed conflict to observe scrupulously the letter and spirit of international humanitarian law, bearing in mind that armed conflict is one of the principal causes of forced displacement in Africa;

4. *Welcomes* decision EX.CL/Dec.319 (X) on the situation of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa adopted by the Executive Council of the African Union at its tenth ordinary session, held in Addis Ababa on 25 and 26 January 2007;[7]

5. *Expresses its appreciation* for the leadership shown by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and commends the Office for its ongoing efforts, with the support of the international community, to assist African countries of asylum and to respond to the protection and assistance needs of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa;

---

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1001, No. 14691.
[2] Ibid., vol. 1520, No. 26363.
[3] Ibid., vol. 189, No. 2545.
[4] Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.
[5] A/62/316.
[6] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 12* (A/62/12).
[7] See African Union, document EX.CL/Dec.315-347 (X).

6. *Notes* the initiatives taken by the African Union and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, in particular the role of its Special Rapporteur on Refugees, Asylum Seekers, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa;

7. *Also notes* that the conclusion on children at risk, adopted by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees at its fifty-eighth session,[8] held at Geneva from 1 to 5 October 2007, is aimed at enhancing the assistance and protection provided by the Office of the High Commissioner to children, as defined under article 1 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[9] who are asylum-seekers, stateless, refugees, internally displaced or returnees;

8. *Encourages* the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child to incorporate in their work the Executive Committee conclusion on children at risk;

9. *Affirms* that children, because of their age, social status and physical and mental development, are often more vulnerable than adults in situations of forced displacement, recognizes that forced displacement, return to post-conflict situations, integration in new societies, protracted situations of displacement and statelessness can increase the vulnerability of children generally, takes into account the particular vulnerability of refugee children to being forcibly exposed to the risks of physical and psychological injury, exploitation and death in connection with armed conflict, and acknowledges that wider environmental factors and individual risk factors, particularly when combined, can put children in situations of heightened risk;

10. *Recognizes* that no solution to displacement can be durable unless it is sustainable, and therefore encourages the Office of the High Commissioner to support the sustainability of return and reintegration;

11. *Also recognizes* the importance of early registration and effective registration systems and censuses as a tool of protection and as a means to the quantification and assessment of needs for the provision and distribution of humanitarian assistance and to implement appropriate durable solutions;

12. *Recalls* the conclusion on registration of refugees and asylum-seekers adopted by the Executive Committee at its fifty-second session,[10] notes the many forms of harassment faced by refugees and asylum-seekers who remain without any form of documentation attesting to their status, recalls the responsibility of States to register refugees on their territories, and, as appropriate, the responsibility of the Office of the High Commissioner or mandated international bodies to do so, reiterates in this context the central role that early and effective registration and documentation can play, guided by protection considerations, in enhancing protection and supporting efforts to find durable solutions, and calls upon the Office of the High Commissioner, as appropriate, to help States to conduct this procedure should they be unable to register refugees on their territory;

---

[8] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 12A* (A/62/12/Add.1), chap. III, sect. A.

[9] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

[10] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 12A* (A/56/12/Add.1), chap. III, sect. B.

13. *Calls upon* the international community, including States and the Office of the High Commissioner and other relevant United Nations organizations, within their respective mandates, to take concrete action to meet the protection and assistance needs of refugees, returnees and displaced persons and to contribute generously to projects and programmes aimed at alleviating their plight and facilitating durable solutions for refugees and displaced persons;

14. *Reaffirms* the importance of timely and adequate assistance and protection for refugees, returnees and displaced persons, also reaffirms that assistance and protection are mutually reinforcing and that inadequate material assistance and food shortages undermine protection, notes the importance of a rights- and community-based approach in engaging constructively with individual refugees, returnees and displaced persons and their communities so as to achieve fair and equitable access to food and other forms of material assistance, and expresses concern in regard to situations in which minimum standards of assistance are not met, including those in which adequate needs assessments have yet to be undertaken;

15. *Also reaffirms* that respect by States for their protection responsibilities towards refugees is strengthened by international solidarity involving all members of the international community and that the refugee protection regime is enhanced through committed international cooperation in a spirit of solidarity and burden- and responsibility-sharing among all States;

16. *Further reaffirms* that host States have the primary responsibility to ensure the civilian and humanitarian character of asylum, calls upon States, in cooperation with international organizations, within their mandates, to take all necessary measures to ensure respect for the principles of refugee protection and, in particular, to ensure that the civilian and humanitarian nature of refugee camps is not compromised by the presence or the activities of armed elements or used for purposes that are incompatible with their civilian character, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue efforts, in consultation with States and other relevant actors, to ensure the civilian and humanitarian character of camps;

17. *Condemns* all acts that pose a threat to the personal security and well-being of refugees and asylum-seekers, such as refoulement, unlawful expulsion and physical attacks, calls upon States of refuge, in cooperation with international organizations, where appropriate, to take all necessary measures to ensure respect for the principles of refugee protection, including the humane treatment of asylum-seekers, notes with interest that the High Commissioner has continued to take steps to encourage the development of measures to better ensure the civilian and humanitarian character of asylum, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue those efforts, in consultation with States and other relevant actors;

18. *Deplores* the continuing violence and insecurity which constitute an ongoing threat to the safety and security of staff members of the Office of the High Commissioner and other humanitarian organizations and an obstacle to the effective fulfilment of the mandate of the Office and the ability of its implementing partners and other humanitarian personnel to discharge their respective humanitarian functions, urges States, parties to conflict and all other relevant actors to take all necessary measures to protect activities related to humanitarian assistance, prevent attacks on and kidnapping of national and international humanitarian workers and ensure the safety and security of the personnel and property of the Office and that of

all humanitarian organizations discharging functions mandated by the Office, and calls upon States to investigate fully any crime committed against humanitarian personnel and bring to justice the persons responsible for such crimes;

19. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner, the African Union, subregional organizations and all African States, in conjunction with agencies of the United Nations system, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the international community, to strengthen and revitalize existing partnerships and forge new ones in support of the protection system for refugees, asylum-seekers and internally displaced persons;

20. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner, the international community and other concerned entities to intensify their support to African Governments through appropriate capacity-building activities, including training of relevant officers, disseminating information about refugee instruments and principles, providing financial, technical and advisory services to accelerate the enactment or amendment and implementation of legislation relating to refugees, strengthening emergency response and enhancing capacities for the coordination of humanitarian activities, in particular those that have received large numbers of refugees and asylum-seekers;

21. *Reaffirms* the right of return and the principle of voluntary repatriation, appeals to countries of origin and countries of asylum to create conditions that are conducive to voluntary repatriation, and recognizes that, while voluntary repatriation remains the pre-eminent solution, local integration and third-country resettlement, where appropriate and feasible, are also viable options for dealing with the situation of African refugees who, owing to prevailing circumstances in their respective countries of origin, are unable to return home;

22. *Also reaffirms* that voluntary repatriation should not necessarily be conditioned on the accomplishment of political solutions in the country of origin in order not to impede the exercise of the refugees' right to return, recognizes that the voluntary repatriation and reintegration process is normally guided by the conditions in the country of origin, in particular that voluntary repatriation can be accomplished in conditions of safety and dignity, and urges the High Commissioner to promote sustainable return through the development of durable and lasting solutions, particularly in protracted refugee situations;

23. *Calls upon* the international donor community to provide financial and material assistance that allows for the implementation of community-based development programmes that benefit both refugees and host communities, as appropriate, in agreement with host countries and consistent with humanitarian objectives;

24. *Appeals* to the international community to respond positively, in the spirit of solidarity and burden- and responsibility-sharing, to the third-country resettlement needs of African refugees, notes in this regard the importance of using resettlement strategically, as part of situation-specific comprehensive responses to refugee situations, and to this end encourages interested States, the Office of the High Commissioner and other relevant partners to make full use of the Multilateral Framework of Understandings on Resettlement,[11] where appropriate;

[11] Available from www.unhcr.org.

25. *Calls upon* the international donor community to provide material and financial assistance for the implementation of programmes intended for the rehabilitation of the environment and infrastructure affected by refugees in countries of asylum;

26. *Urges* the international community, in the spirit of international solidarity and burden-sharing, to continue to fund generously the refugee programmes of the Office of the High Commissioner and, taking into account the substantially increased needs of programmes in Africa, inter alia, as a result of repatriation possibilities, to ensure that Africa receives a fair and equitable share of the resources designated for refugees;

27. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner and interested States to identify protracted refugee situations which might lend themselves to resolution through the development of specific, multilateral, comprehensive and practical approaches to resolving such refugee situations, including improvement of international burden- and responsibility-sharing and realization of durable solutions, within a multilateral context;

28. *Expresses grave concern* about the plight of internally displaced persons in Africa, notes the efforts of African States in strengthening the regional mechanisms for protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons, calls upon States to take concrete action to pre-empt internal displacement and to meet the protection and assistance needs of internally displaced persons, recalls in that regard the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement,[12] takes note of the current activities of the Office of the High Commissioner related to protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons, including in the context of inter-agency arrangements in this field, emphasizes that such activities should be consistent with relevant General Assembly resolutions and should not undermine the refugee mandate of the Office and the institution of asylum, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue his dialogue with States on the role of his office in this regard;

29. *Invites* the Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons to continue his ongoing dialogue with Member States and the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned, in accordance with his mandate, and to include information thereon in his reports to the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly;

30. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report on assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session, taking fully into account the efforts expended by countries of asylum, under the item entitled "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions".

---

[12] E/CN.4/998/53/Add.2, annex.

United Nations A/62/432

General Assembly

Distr.: General
30 November 2007

Original: English

Sixty-second session
Agenda item 62

Social development

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Tebatso Future **Baleseng** (Botswana)

I. Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 21 September 2007, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-second session the item entitled:

"Social development:

"(a) Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly;

"(b) Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family;

"(c) Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing"

and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Third Committee considered the item at its 2nd to 5th, 16th, 21st, 25th, 27th, 29th, 34th, 43rd, 51st and 53rd meetings, on 8 to 10, 18, 23, 25, 26, 29 and 31 October and 14, 21 and 27 November 2007. At its 2nd to 5th meetings, the Committee held a general discussion on sub-items (a) to (c) of agenda item 62. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/62/SR.2-5, 16, 21, 25, 27, 29, 34, 43, 51 and 53).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly (A/62/122);

07-62207 (E) 131207

(b) Report on the World Social Situation 2007: The Employment Imperative (A/62/168);

(c) Letter dated 4 April 2007 from the representative of Spain to the Secretary-General (A/62/71-E/2007/46);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (A/62/61-E/2007/7);

(e) Addendum to the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond: goals and targets for monitoring the progress of youth in the global economy (A/62/61/Add.1-E/2007/7/Add.1);

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and beyond (A/62/132 and Add.1);

(g) Report of the Secretary-General on cooperatives in social development (A/62/154);

(h) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons: the Millennium Development Goals and synergies with other United Nations disability instruments (A/62/157);

(i) Letter dated 21 September 2007 from the representative of Qatar to the Secretary-General (A/62/357);

(j) Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing (A/62/131 and Corr.1).

4. At the 2nd meeting, on 8 October, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and the Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat made introductory statements (see A/C.3/62/SR.2).

5. The Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development responded to questions posed by the representatives of the Philippines, the Sudan, China and Cuba (see A/C.3/62/SR.2).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolutions A/C.3/62/L.4, A/C.3/62/L.7 and A/C.3/62/L.7/Rev.1

6. At its 29th meeting, on 29 October, the Committee had before it a draft resolution recommended by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2007/27, entitled "Supplement to the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond" (A/C.3/62/L.4), for adoption by the General Assembly, which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolution 60/2 of 6 October 2005 entitled 'Policies and programmes involving youth', in which it requested the Commission for Social Development at its forty-fifth session to elaborate the five additional priority

areas for the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, as established in that resolution, and to make recommendations on a supplement to the World Programme of Action to the General Assembly, to be adopted at its sixty-second session, taking into consideration other emerging issues of particular relevance to youth,

"*Decides* to adopt the supplement to the World Programme of Action for Youth annexed to the present resolution."

[*For the text of the supplement, see para. 47, draft resolution I, annex.*]

7. Also at the 29th meeting, the representative of Senegal, on behalf of Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Estonia, Guatemala, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mali, the Netherlands, the Niger, Portugal, Romania, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Policies and programmes involving youth: youth in the global economy" (A/C.3/62/L.7), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolution 50/81 of 14 December 1995, by which it adopted the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond,

"*Recalling also* its resolution 60/2 of 6 October 2005, in which it took note of the three clusters presented in the 'World Youth Report 2005', namely, youth in the global economy, youth in civil society, and youth and their well-being, and requested the Secretary-General to provide to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session, through the Commission for Social Development at its forty-fifth session, a comprehensive report on the implementation of the World Programme of Action, including the definition of goals and targets, in one of the three clusters presented in the above-mentioned report of the Secretary-General,

"*Recalling further* Commission for Social Development resolution 45/2 in which the Commission requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with organizations, programmes and the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, to identify goals and targets regarding the cluster 'youth and the global economy' and to submit an addendum to the report by the Secretary-General on follow-up to the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session,

"1. *Recognizes* that the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond and the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, require the full and effective participation of young people and youth-led organizations and other civil society organizations at the local, national, regional and international level;

"2. *Reaffirms* the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond and the supplement to the World Programme of Action for Youth;

"3. *Takes note with appreciation* of the reports of the Secretary-General on follow-up to the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond and on goals and targets for monitoring the progress of youth in the global economy;

"4. *Recognizes* that while youth today are better placed than ever before to participate in and benefit from global development, many young people, especially in developing countries, remain marginalized from the global economy and lack the capabilities to access the opportunities globalization offers, and calls in this regard, upon Member States to:

"(a) Integrate and protect youth in the global economy through the provision of employment under decent work conditions;

"(b) Ensure that, in youth development, their access to food, health, education and employment are specifically addressed in national policies and programmes, including in poverty reduction strategy papers and other policy documents that aim to foster the participation of countries in the global economy;

"(c) Ensure adequate funding for formal and non-formal education, including programmes geared at fostering the acquisition of requisite skills by youth;

"(d) Improve the ability of young people to make a better transition into the world of work and enhance their access to the changing labour market through promoting policies that expand opportunities for youth to get quality education and training; the provision of skills development combined with other programmes that are targeted at the specific labour market needs of youth and that focus on the multiple needs of those most at risk of joblessness; and the incorporation of skills training into education planning at all stages;

"(e) Reinforce links between policies on education, training, social inclusion and mobility in order to improve the situation of young people in the labour market and to significantly reduce youth unemployment while also supporting policies that promote reconciliation of family life and working life, equal opportunities, solidarity between the generations, health and lifelong learning;

"(f) Develop national strategies to overcome the 'digital divide' in all countries and ensure that young people are equipped with knowledge and skills to use information and communications technology appropriately, including the capacity to analyse and treat information in creative and innovative ways and to share their expertise, thus enabling them to overcome the barriers of distance and socio-economic disadvantage, while also providing them with access to information on a range of issues that directly affect them, including health, education and employment;

"(g) Promote young women's equal access to education and vocational training at all levels in order to provide them with an equal opportunity to participate in the global economy;

"5. *Encourages* Member States to involve young people in the development of national policies that affect them, where appropriate, bearing in mind that girls, boys, young women and young men have the same rights;

"6. *Invites* Member States to consider using the proposed goals and targets, as contained in the report of the Secretary-General on goals and targets for monitoring the progress of youth in the global economy, at the national level as a means of facilitating the monitoring of progress of youth in the global economy and the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth;

"7. *Encourages* Member States, in collaboration with the United Nations system, young people, youth-led organizations, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders, to design national youth policies with the objective of achieving the proposed goals and targets and, where appropriate, to establish mechanisms to measure progress against the goals and targets, including comprehensive databases within youth ministries or similar offices, and to disaggregate data related to these goals and targets by age and sex whenever possible;

"8. *Calls upon* Member States to ensure the full participation of youth-led organizations and other stakeholders in all efforts to achieve the proposed goals and targets;

"9. *Encourages* Member States to collect youth-specific disaggregated data on a continuous basis in the priority areas of the World Programme of Action for Youth, and requests the Secretary-General to devise means to widely disseminate such data in order to ensure that the global interest in youth development is informed by sound and adequate data;

"10. *Welcomes* the process of collaboration and consultation between Member States, the organizations, programmes, regional commissions and the specialized agencies of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations in identifying the proposed goals and targets for measuring youth and the global economy, and recommends continued collaboration, including cooperation in high-level training, between these actors in the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth and the monitoring of progress of such implementation;

"11. *Stresses* the importance of ensuring that young people are recognized as active agents in decision-making process and for positive change and development in society, and in this regard urges Member States to consider including youth representatives in their delegations to all relevant discussions in the General Assembly and in the Economic and Social Council, including in its functional commissions, bearing in mind the principle of gender balance;

"12. *Recognizes* the need for a greater geographical balance of youth representatives, and invites Member States to contribute to the United Nations Youth Fund in order to facilitate the participation of youth representatives from developing countries;

"13. *Requests* the Commission for Social Development, at its forty-sixth session, to take the recommendations on youth employment contained in the Secretary-General's report on follow-up to the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond into account in its discussions of its priority theme 'Promoting full employment and decent work for all';

"14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session, through the Commission for Social Development at its forty-seventh session, on the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth in the clusters 'youth in civil society' and 'youth and their well-being' and to include in that report a comprehensive set of goals and targets for those clusters based on consultations with Member States, the organizations, programmes, regional commissions and the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, young people, youth-led organizations and other non-governmental organizations."

8. At its 51st meeting, on 21 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution entitled "Promoting youth participation in social and economic development" (A/C.3/62/L.7/Rev.1), submitted by Albania, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Botswana, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Cape Verde, the Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Eritrea, Estonia, Finland, the Gambia, Georgia, Guatemala, Guinea, Honduras, Hungary, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lesotho, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Mali, Mongolia, the Netherlands, the Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, Romania, San Marino, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Spain, Swaziland, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Uganda, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United Republic of Tanzania. Subsequently, Australia, Belize, Brazil, Burundi, Canada, Chile, the Comoros, Croatia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guyana, Iceland, Lebanon, Liberia, Mauritania, Moldova, Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, Nicaragua, Paraguay, the Philippines, Slovenia, Switzerland, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Ukraine, Uruguay and Zambia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

9. At the same meeting, the representative of the United Kingdom orally corrected the title of the draft resolution so that it read: "Policies and programmes involving youth: youth in the global economy — promoting youth participation in social and economic development".

10. Also at the same meeting, the Committee was advised that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

11. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.7/Rev.1, as orally corrected, without a vote (see para. 47, draft resolution I).

12. Also at the 51st meeting, in the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.7/Rev.1, the Committee agreed not to take action on draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.4.

B. Draft resolutions A/C.3/62/L.5 and Rev.1

13. At the 21st meeting, on 23 October, the representative of the Philippines, on behalf of Andorra, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Cambodia, Jordan, Panama, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea and Turkey, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons:

realizing the Millennium Development Goals for persons with disabilities" (A/C.3/62/L.5). Cameroon, Guinea, Indonesia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mali, Paraguay and Senegal joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its previous resolutions concerning persons with disabilities, the most recent of which was resolution 60/131 of 16 December 2005, in which it recognized the important role of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals,

"*Recalling also* its resolutions on the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities and its resolution 61/106 of 13 December 2006, by which the Assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol to the Convention,

"*Recalling further* the 2005 World Summit, held on 16 September 2005, at which Heads of State and Government, inter alia, expressed their resolve to ensure the timely and full realization of development goals and objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals,

"*Aware* that there are at least 650 million persons with disabilities worldwide and that the majority of them are among the poorest of the poor, a fact which highlights the urgent need for concerted practical action to address poverty among persons with disabilities,

"*Convinced* that addressing the profound social, cultural and economic disadvantage experienced by many persons with disabilities and that promoting progressive removal of barriers to their full and effective participation in all aspects of development will further the equalization of opportunities and contribute to the realization of a society for all in the twenty-first century,

"*Reaffirming* the continuing validity and value of the World Programme of Action in providing guidance for the full and effective achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, for persons with disabilities,

"*Stressing* the particular and complementary contributions of current international instruments concerning persons with disabilities, each of which constitutes an important building block for the achievement of time-bound and quantifiable commitments set forth in outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields,

"*Convinced* that the 2010 review of global progress, including obstacles encountered in implementing the outcome of the Millennium Summit, should include an evaluation of the measures taken to achieve the Millennium Development Goals as they impact on persons with disabilities,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons;

"2. *Welcomes* the work of the Special Rapporteur on Disability of the Commission for Social Development;

"3. *Expresses concern* about the persistent gap between policy and practice regarding mainstreaming the disability perspective in the work of the United Nations;

"4. *Encourages* Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector, as appropriate, to examine and ensure that development strategies, policies and programmes aimed at implementing internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, are disability-inclusive and promote the equalization of opportunities for all by:

"(a) Promoting environmental accessibility, with reasonable adaptation, in the physical environment and in the field of information and communications technology in order to ensure that persons with disabilities are able to participate on the basis of equality as agents and beneficiaries of development;

"(b) Providing appropriate and accessible social services and safety nets to ensure improved well-being for all;

"(c) Promoting and strengthening national capacities for participatory, democratic and accountable processes, including mechanisms that further the equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities in civil and political, economic, social and cultural life;

"5. *Encourages* Governments to develop and analyse statistics on the situation of persons with disabilities, bearing in mind the provision of appropriate protection of personal data, for purposes of disability-inclusive policy planning, analysis and evaluation, and in this regard invites Governments to avail themselves of the technical services of the United Nations Statistics Division;

"6. *Urges* concerned entities of the United Nations system, including agencies, funds and programmes, and invites international and regional development finance institutions, to take concrete measures to incorporate the disability perspective in their development cooperation and development finance activities;

"7. *Reaffirms* the role of the United Nations Voluntary Fund on Disability in supporting catalytic and innovative action to implement the development goals and objectives of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, and to build national capacities to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities in the context of development;

"8. *Calls upon* all parties involved in the discussions of the United Nations system-wide coherence in the areas of development, humanitarian assistance and environment to ensure that the disability perspective is appropriately incorporated in the examination of options, decisions and evaluations related to the implementation of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

"9. *Calls upon* Governments to include a review and evaluation of the impact of development efforts on the rights, well-being and livelihood of persons and disabilities in country reports in connection with the 2010 review of progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals;

"10. *Encourages* Governments, intergovernmental organizations and concerned entities of the United Nations system to continue to take practical action, in cooperation with concerned non-governmental organizations and other civil society organizations, including organizations of persons with disabilities, to implement the World Programme of Action to achieve internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

"11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to give higher priority to disability issues within the work programme of the United Nations system and to strengthen the role of the United Nations and its development programmes and agencies in mainstreaming disability issues within the United Nations system through:

"(a) Promoting the integration of disability issues in the policies, programmes and projects of the Secretariat and the other United Nations bodies and agencies on a broader scale and with higher priority, and in this regard to ensure that the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses is disability-inclusive;

"(b) Further strengthening action and assistance in least developed countries and in regions, with special attention to vulnerable groups;

"(c) Initiating pilot projects to assist Member States in formulating comprehensive and coherent disability policies and action plans, including projects that promote technical cooperation, in particular in order to enhance the capacities of government agencies to implement programmes on disability;

"(d) Reviewing the human development index of the United Nations Development Programme in order to facilitate further understanding of it from the disability perspective;

"12. *Decides* that the fifth review and appraisal of the World Programme of Action, to be conducted by the Assembly in 2008, shall direct special attention to the issues raised in paragraphs 3 to 11 above;

"13. *Decides also* to rename the International Day of Disabled Persons, observed every year on 3 December, the International Day of Persons with Disabilities;

"14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to:

"(a) Submit an analytical and policy-oriented report on the fifth review and appraisal of the World Programme of Action at its sixty-third session as a contribution to the 2010 review of the progress, including obstacles encountered in implementing the goals of the Millennium Summit, particularly the Millennium Development Goals;

"(b) Present, as an annex to the report requested in paragraph 14 (a) above, proposed updates of the World Programme of Action, in accordance with paragraph 201 of the World Programme of Action."

14. At its 43rd meeting, on 14 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons: realizing the Millennium Development Goals for persons with disabilities" (A/C.3/62/L.5/Rev.1), submitted by Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, the Dominican Republic, Ghana, Guinea, Indonesia, Jordan, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mali, Mongolia, New Zealand, Panama, the Philippines, Poland, the Republic of Korea, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Turkey and Uruguay. Subsequently, Belgium, China, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Luxembourg, Mauritius, the Netherlands, Peru, South Africa, the Sudan, Sweden, and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

15. At the same meeting, the representative of the Philippines orally revised operative paragraph 6 (c) of the draft resolution by inserting the word "education" after the words "compulsory primary".

16. Subsequently, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Austria, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, the Central African Republic, Chile, the Comoros, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Lithuania, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria, Qatar, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Uganda and Ukraine also joined in sponsoring the revised draft resolution.

17. Also at the same meeting, the Committee was advised that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

18. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of Australia (see A/C.3/62/SR.43).

19. Also at its 43rd meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.5/Rev.1, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 47, draft resolution II.

20. At the 51st meeting, the representative of Costa Rica made a statement (see A/C.3/62/SR.51).

C. Draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.6

21. At the 27th meeting, on 26 October, the representative of Mongolia, on behalf of Brazil, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Honduras, Mali, Malawi, Mongolia, Myanmar and Panama, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Cooperatives in social development" (A/C.3/62/L.6) and orally revised the text as follows:

(a) The second preambular paragraph, which read:

"*Recognizing* that cooperatives, in their various forms, promote the fullest possible participation in the economic and social development of all people, including women, youth, older people and people with disabilities, and are becoming a major factor of economic and social development",

was replaced by:

"*Recognizing* that cooperatives, in their various forms, promote the fullest possible participation in economic and social development of all people, including women, youth, older people, people with disabilities and indigenous peoples, and are becoming a major factor of economic and social development and contribute to the eradication of poverty,"

(b) A new fourth preambular paragraph was inserted, reading:

"*Noting with appreciation* the potential role of cooperative development in the improvement of the social and economic conditions of the indigenous peoples and rural communities";

(c) In operative paragraph 2, the words "business enterprises" were replaced by the words "business and social enterprises"; and after the words "sustainable development", the words "eradication of poverty" were inserted;

(d) At the end of operative paragraph 3, after the words "vis-à-vis other business", the words "and social" were inserted;

(e) Operative paragraph 4 (b), which read:

"(b) Encouraging and facilitating the establishment and development of cooperatives among excluded groups to generate employment opportunities and harness the potential and productivity of marginalized groups and increasing their efforts to facilitate the full participation of women, youth, persons with disabilities, older persons and indigenous peoples in cooperatives",

was replaced by:

"(b) Encouraging and facilitating the establishment and development of cooperatives, including taking measures aimed at enabling people living in poverty or belonging to vulnerable groups, including women, youth, persons with disabilities, older persons and indigenous peoples, to fully participate, on a voluntary basis, in cooperatives and to address their social service needs";

(f) At the end of operative paragraph 4 (c), the words "training and technical assistance to build the capacity of cooperatives, in particular management, auditing and marketing skills;" were replaced with the words "training, technical assistance and capacity-building of cooperatives, especially in the fields of management, auditing and marketing skills";

(g) Operative paragraph 4 (e), which read:

"(e) Taking steps to improve the collection and dissemination of statistical data on the activities, employment and overall socio-economic impact of cooperatives at the national and international levels, promote comprehensive research and raise public awareness of the role and contribution of cooperatives to socio-economic development",

was deleted;

(h) At the end of operative paragraph 8, after the words "and to report thereon to the General Assembly", the words "through the Economic and Social Council" were deleted.

22. Subsequently, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, China, Colombia, the Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Guinea, Jamaica, Kenya, Lebanon, Madagascar, Mexico, Nepal, Nicaragua, the Niger, Nigeria, the Philippines, Senegal, Sierra Leone, the Sudan, Swaziland, Thailand, Uganda and Zimbabwe joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

23. At its 34th meeting, on 31 October, the Committee was advised that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

24. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.6, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 47, draft resolution III).

D. Draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.8

25. At the 16th meeting, on 18 October, the representative of Pakistan, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China as well as Belarus, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Follow-up to the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and beyond" (A/C.3/62/L.8). The Russian Federation and Uzbekistan joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

26. At its 34th meeting, on 31 October, the Committee was advised that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

27. At the same meeting, the representative of Pakistan made a statement and orally revised operative paragraph 4 of the draft resolution as follows: after the words "Programme on the Family", the words "within its mandate" were inserted; and the words "provision of technical assistance to Governments, upon request, to build and develop their national capacities" were replaced by the words: "provision of technical assistance to build and develop national capacities".

28. Subsequently, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kazakhstan and the United States of America joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

29. Also at its 34th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.8, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 47, draft resolution IV).

30. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of Portugal made a statement on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union (see A/C.3/62/SR.34).

E. Draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.9

31. At the 16th meeting, on 18 October, the representative of Pakistan, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China as well as Belarus, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing" (A/C.3/62/L.9). The Russian Federation and Uzbekistan joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

32. At its 25th meeting, on 25 October, the Committee was advised that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

33. At the same meeting, the representative of Pakistan orally revised the draft resolution as follows:

(a) In operative paragraph 10, after the words "persons as they age and", the words "to set targets, in particular gender-specific targets, to improve the health status of older persons and to reduce disability and mortality" were replaced with the words "to evaluate improvement in the health status of older persons, including on a gender-specific basis, and to reduce disability and mortality";

(b) At the beginning of operative paragraph 12, after the words "Commissioner for Social Development", the words "that it focus" were replaced with the words "to include in".

34. Subsequently, Albania, Andorra, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, the Czech Republic, Cyprus, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

35. Also at its 25th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.9, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 47, draft resolution V).

36. At the 29th meeting, on 29 October, the representative of Finland made a statement (see A/C.3/62/SR.29).

37. At the 43rd meeting, on 14 November, the representative of Greece made a statement (see A/C.3/62/SR.43).

F. Draft resolutions A/C.3/62/L.10 and Rev.1

38. At the 16th meeting, on 18 October, the representative of Pakistan, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China as well as Belarus, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly" (A/C.3/62/L.10), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* the World Summit for Social Development, held at Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly entitled 'World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world', held at Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,

"*Reaffirming* that the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action and the further initiatives for social development adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth special session, as well as a continued global dialogue on social development issues, constitute the basic framework for the promotion of social development for all at the national and international levels,

"*Recalling* the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the development goals contained therein, as well as the commitments made at major United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions, including the commitments made at the 2005 World Summit,

"*Recalling also* its resolution 60/209 of 22 December 2005 on the implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006),

"*Recalling further* its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

"*Noting with appreciation* the ministerial declaration, adopted at the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2006 of the Economic and Social Council, on 'Creating an environment at the national and international levels conducive to generating full and productive employment and decent work for all, and its impact on sustainable development',

"*Noting* that the decent work agenda of the International Labour Organization, with its four strategic objectives, is an important instrument to achieve the objective of full and productive employment and decent work for all,

"*Emphasizing* the need to enhance the role of the Commission for Social Development in the follow-up and review of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly,

"*Recognizing* that a people-centred approach must be at the centre of economic and social development,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

"2. *Welcomes* the reaffirmation by Governments of their will and commitment to continue implementing the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action in particular to eradicate poverty, promote full and productive employment and foster social integration to achieve stable, safe and just societies for all;

"3. *Recognizes* that the implementation of the Copenhagen commitments and the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, are mutually reinforcing and that the Copenhagen commitments are crucial to a coherent people-centred approach to development;

"4. *Reaffirms* that the Commission for Social Development continues to have the primary responsibility for the follow-up and review of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly and that it serves as the main United Nations forum for an intensified global dialogue on social development issues, and calls upon Member States, the relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and civil society to enhance their support for its work;

"5. *Recognizes* that the broad concept of social development affirmed by the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly has been weakened in national and international policymaking and that, while poverty eradication is a central part of development policy and discourse, further attention should be given to the other commitments agreed to at the Summit, in particular those concerning employment and social integration, which have also suffered from a general disconnect between economic and social policymaking;

"6. *Acknowledges* that the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006), launched after the World Summit for Social Development, has provided the long-term vision for sustained and concerted efforts at the national and international levels to eradicate poverty, and recognizes that the implementation of the commitments made by Governments during the Decade has fallen short of expectations;

"7. *Emphasizes* that the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the Millennium Summit and the 2005 World Summit, have reinforced the priority and urgency of poverty eradication within the United Nations development agenda;

"8. *Also emphasizes* that poverty eradication policies should attack poverty by addressing its root and structural causes and manifestations, and that equity and the reduction of inequalities need to be incorporated in those policies;

"9. *Stresses* that an enabling environment is a critical precondition for achieving equity and social development and that, while economic growth is essential, entrenched inequality and marginalization are an obstacle to the broad-based and sustained growth required for sustainable, inclusive people-centred development, and recognizes the need to balance and ensure complementarity between measures to achieve growth and measures to achieve economic and social equity in order for there to be an impact on overall poverty levels;

"10. *Recognizes* the need to promote respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms in order to address the most pressing social needs of people living in poverty, including through the design and development of appropriate mechanisms to strengthen and consolidate democratic institutions and governance;

"11. *Reaffirms* the commitment to the empowerment of women and gender equality, recognizing that these are critical for achieving sustainable development and for efforts to combat hunger, poverty and disease and to strengthen policies and programmes that improve, ensure and broaden the full participation of women in all spheres of political, economic, social and cultural life, as equal partners, and to improve their access to all resources needed for the full exercise of all their human rights and fundamental freedoms by removing persistent barriers, including ensuring equal access to full and productive employment and decent work;

"12. *Also reaffirms* the commitment to employment strategies and policies that promote full, freely chosen and productive employment, as well as decent work for all, with full respect for fundamental principles and rights at work under conditions of equity, equality, security and dignity, and further reaffirms that employment creation should be incorporated into

macroeconomic policies taking fully into account the social impact and dimension of globalization;

"13. *Further reaffirms* that there is an urgent need to create an environment at the national and international levels that is conducive to the attainment of full and productive employment and decent work for all as a foundation for sustainable development and that an environment that supports investment, growth and entrepreneurship is essential to the creation of new job opportunities, and also reaffirms that opportunities for men and women to obtain productive work in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity are essential to ensuring the eradication of hunger and poverty, the improvement of economic and social well-being for all, the achievement of sustained economic growth and sustainable development of all nations and a fully inclusive and equitable globalization;

"14. *Stresses* the importance of taking further effective measures to remove the obstacles to the realization of the right of peoples to self-determination, in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions, in particular peoples living under foreign occupation and their exclusion from labour markets and its effect on economic and social development;

"15. *Recognizes* that full and productive employment and decent work for all, which encompass social protection, fundamental principles and rights at work and social dialogue, are key elements of sustainable development for all countries and are therefore a priority objective of international cooperation;

"16. *Stresses* that policies and programmes designed to achieve poverty eradication, full employment and decent work for all should include specific measures to foster social integration, including by providing marginalized socio economic sectors and groups with equal access to opportunities and social protection;

"17. *Also stresses* that labour market policies should be devised and implemented, taking into account their social impact and that migration policies need to be socially responsive and inclusive;

"18. *Reaffirms* that social integration policies should seek to reduce inequalities, promote access to basic social services, education for all and health care, increase the participation and integration of social groups, particularly youth, older persons and persons with disabilities, and address the challenges posed by globalization and market-driven reforms to social development in order for all people in all countries to benefit from globalization;

"19. *Also reaffirms* the commitment to respect and promote the rights of indigenous peoples in the areas of education, employment, housing, sanitation, health and social security, recognized in international human rights law and referred to in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, set out in the annex to General Assembly resolution 61/295, of 13 September 2007;

"20. *Recognizes* the need to formulate social development policies in an integral, articulated and participative manner, recognizing poverty as a multidimensional phenomenon, calls for interlinked public policies on this matter, and underlines the need for public policies to be included in a comprehensive development and well-being strategy;

"21. *Acknowledges* the important role the public sector can play as an employer in formulating and implementing social public policies and in developing an environment that enables the effective generation of full and productive employment and decent work for all;

"22. *Also acknowledges* the vital role the private sector can play in generating new investments, employment and financing for development and in advancing efforts towards full employment and decent work;

"23. *Recognizes* that the majority of poor people live and work in rural areas, that priority should be given to agricultural and non-farm sectors and that steps should be taken to mitigate and reverse the negative social and economic consequences of globalization and to maximize its benefits in order to improve employment and livelihoods for rural communities;

"24. *Reaffirms* the commitments made in respect of 'Meeting the special needs of Africa' at the 2005 World Summit, underlines the call of the Economic and Social Council for enhanced coordination within the United Nations system and the ongoing efforts to harmonize the current initiatives on Africa, and requests the Commission for Social Development to continue to give due prominence in its work to the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;

"25. *Also reaffirms* that each country has the primary responsibility for its own economic and social development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized, and underlines the importance of adopting effective measures, including new financial mechanisms, as appropriate, to support the efforts of developing countries to achieve sustained economic growth, sustainable development, poverty eradication and the strengthening of their democratic systems;

"26. *Further reaffirms*, in this context, that international cooperation has an essential role in assisting developing countries, including the least developed countries, in strengthening their human, institutional and technological capacity;

"27. *Stresses* that the international community shall enhance its efforts to create an enabling environment for social development and poverty eradication through increasing market access for developing countries, technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, financial aid and a comprehensive solution to the external debt problem;

"28. *Acknowledges* that good governance and the rule of law at the national and international levels are essential for sustained economic growth, sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and hunger;

"29. *Urges* developed countries that have not yet done so in accordance with their commitments, to make concrete efforts towards meeting the targets of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for official development assistance to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.2 per cent of their gross national product to least developed countries, and encourages developing countries to build on the progress achieved in ensuring that official development assistance is used effectively to help meet development goals and targets;

"30. *Welcomes* the contribution to the mobilization of resources for social development by the initiatives on a voluntary basis taken by groups of

Member States based on innovative financing mechanisms, including those that aim to provide further drug access at affordable prices to developing countries on a sustainable and predictable basis, such as the International Drug Purchase Facility, UNITAID, as well as other initiatives, such as the International Finance Facility for Immunisation, and notes the New York Declaration of 20 September 2004, which launched the Action against Hunger and Poverty initiative and called for further attention to raise funds urgently needed to help meet the Millennium Development Goals and to complement and ensure long-term stability and predictability to foreign aid;

"31. *Reaffirms* that social development requires the active involvement of all actors in the development process, including civil society organizations, corporations and small businesses, and that partnerships among all relevant actors are increasingly becoming part of national and international cooperation for social development, and also reaffirms that, within countries, partnerships among the Government, civil society and the private sector can contribute effectively to the achievement of social development goals;

"32. *Underlines* the responsibility of the private sector, at both the national and the international levels, including small and large companies and transnational corporations, regarding not only the economic and financial but also the development, social, gender and environmental implications of their activities, their obligations towards their workers and their contributions to achieving sustainable development, including social development, and emphasizes the need to take concrete actions on corporate responsibility and accountability, including through the participation of all relevant stakeholders, inter alia, for the prevention or prosecution of corruption;

"33. *Invites* the Secretary-General, the Economic and Social Council, the regional commissions, the relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental forums, within their respective mandates, to continue to integrate into their work programmes and give priority attention to the Copenhagen commitments and the Declaration on the tenth anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development, to continue to be actively involved in their follow-up and to monitor the achievement of those commitments and undertakings;

"34. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-third session the sub-item entitled 'Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly', and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on the question to the Assembly at that session."

39. Subsequently, Armenia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

40. At its 53rd meeting, on 27 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution (A/C.3/62/L.10/Rev.1), submitted by the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.10, joined by Armenia and Belarus.

41. At the same meeting, the Committee was advised that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

42. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Pakistan orally revised the draft resolution as follows:

(a) The beginning of operative paragraph 12, which read:

"12. *Also reaffirms* the commitment to employment strategies and policies that promote full, freely chosen and productive employment, as well as decent work for all",

was replaced by:

"12. *Also reaffirms* the commitment to employment strategies and macroeconomic policies that actively promote opportunities for full, freely chosen and productive employment, including for the most disadvantaged, as well as decent work for all, in order to deliver social justice combined with economic efficiency";

(b) After operative paragraph 14, a new paragraph was inserted, reading:

"15. *Reaffirms* that violence, in its many manifestations, including domestic violence, especially against women, children, older persons and people with disabilities, is a growing threat to the security of individuals, families and communities everywhere; total social breakdown is an all too real contemporary experience; organized crime, illegal drugs, the illicit arms trade, trafficking in women and children, ethnic and religious conflict, civil war, terrorism, all forms of extremist violence, xenophobia, and politically motivated killing and even genocide present fundamental threats to societies and the global social order; they also present compelling and urgent reasons for action by Governments individually and, as appropriate, jointly to foster social cohesion while recognizing, protecting and valuing diversity";

(c) In operative paragraph 20 (former paragraph 19), the word "also" was inserted before the words "noting the attention".

43. Subsequently, Albania, Andorra, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

44. Also at its 53rd meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.10/Rev.1, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 47, draft resolution VI).

45. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of the United States of America made a statement (see A/C.3/62/SR.53).

G. Draft decision proposed by the Chairman

46. At its 53rd meeting, on 27 November, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the *Report on the World Social Situation 2007: The Employment Imperative*, as summarized in document A/62/168 (see para. 48).

III. Recommendations of the Third Committee

47. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Policies and programmes involving youth: youth in the global economy — promoting youth participation in social and economic development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 50/81 of 14 December 1995, by which it adopted the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond,[1]

Recalling also its resolution 60/2 of 6 October 2005, in which it took note of the three clusters presented in the "World Youth Report 2005",[2] namely, youth in the global economy, youth in civil society, and youth and their well-being, and requested tne Secretary-General to provide the General Assembly at its sixty-second session, through the Commission for Social Development at its forty-fifth session, with a comprehensive report on the implementation of the World Programme of Action, including the definition of goals and targets, in one of the three clusters of the World Programme of Action,

Recalling further Economic and Social Council resolution 2007/27 of 26 July 2007, by which the Council recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of the Supplement to the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond,

Recalling Commission for Social Development resolution 45/2,[3] in which the Commission requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with organizations, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, to identify goals and targets regarding the cluster "Youth and the global economy" and to submit an addendum to the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond[4] to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session,

Recognizing that the implementation of the World Programme of Action and the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,[5] require the full and effective participation of young people and youth-led organizations and other civil society organizations at the local, national, regional and international levels,

Recognizing also the positive impact that youth participation in the global economy and in social and economic development can have on the eradication of poverty and hunger,

---

[1] Resolution 50/81, annex.

[2] A/60/61-E/2005/7.

[3] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2007, Supplement No. 6* (E/2007/26), chap. I. sect. E.

[4] A/62/61-E/2007/7.

[5] See resolution 55/2.

Recognizing further Economic and Social Council resolution 2007/32 of 27 July 2007, on the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), and the decisions of the Programme Coordinating Board of UNAIDS at its twentieth meeting, held at Geneva from 25 to 27 June 2007, in particular the reference to the need to scale up HIV prevention among injecting drug users, consistent with relevant international drug control treaties,

1. *Reaffirms* the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond;[1]

2. *Decides* to adopt the Supplement to the World Programme of Action for Youth, annexed to the present resolution;

3. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond[4] and its addendum entitled "Goals and targets for monitoring the progress of youth in the global economy";[6]

4. *Emphasizes* the importance of a fair globalization and recalls the resolve, expressed at the 2005 World Summit,[7] to make the goals of full and productive employment and decent work for all, including for women and young people, a central objective of relevant national and international policies as well as national development strategies, including poverty reduction strategies, as part of efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals;

5. *Reiterates* that the eradication of poverty, hunger and malnutrition, particularly as they affect children and youth, is crucial for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, recalls the commitment to eradicate poverty and promote sustained economic growth, sustainable development and global prosperity for all, and the need for urgent action on all sides, including more ambitious national development strategies and efforts backed by increased international support, and calls for the increased participation of youth and youth-led organizations in the development of such national development strategies;

6. *Reiterates also* the critical role of both formal and non-formal education in the achievement of poverty eradication and other development goals, as envisaged in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[5] in particular basic education and training for eradicating illiteracy, and stresses the commitments to strive for expanded secondary and higher education, especially for girls and young women, and for the creation of human resources and infrastructure capabilities and the empowerment of those living in poverty;

7. *Reiterates further* the need to intensify efforts to implement effectively the International Plan of Action for the United Nations Literacy Decade[8] and to integrate substantially those efforts in the Education for All process and other activities of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as well as other literacy initiatives within the framework of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

8. *Recognizes* that while youth today are better placed than ever before to participate in, and benefit from, global development, many young people remain

[6] A/62/61/Add.1-E/2007/7/Add.1.

[7] See resolution 60/1, para. 47.

[8] See resolution 57/166.

marginalized, disconnected or excluded from the opportunities that globalization offers, and, in this regard, calls upon Member States, with the support of the international community, as appropriate, to:

(a) Integrate and protect youth in the global economy, including those who live in poverty, through the provision of policies that give them everywhere a real opportunity to find full and productive employment and decent work, including policies that promote the transition to work on the basis of equality and non-discrimination;

(b) Ensure that youth development, especially access of young people to food, water, health, shelter, education and employment, is specifically addressed in national policies and programmes, including poverty reduction strategy papers where they exist, and in other policy documents that aim to foster the participation of countries in the global economy;

(c) Ensure adequate funding for formal and non-formal education, including programmes geared at fostering the acquisition of requisite skills by youth;

(d) Improve the ability of young people, including those who live in poverty, to make a better transition into the world of work and enhance their access to the changing labour market through promoting policies that expand opportunities for youth to get quality education and training; the provision of skills development combined with other programmes that are targeted at the specific labour market needs of youth and that focus on the multiple needs of those most at risk of joblessness; and the incorporation of skills training into education planning at all stages;

(e) Reinforce links between policies on education, training, social integration and mobility so as to improve the situation of young people in the labour market and to reduce significantly youth unemployment while also supporting policies that promote reconciliation of family life and working life, equal opportunities, solidarity between the generations, health and lifelong learning;

(f) Encourage young people's entrepreneurship, including by promoting formal and non-formal education on entrepreneurship for young people, increasing their access to microfinancing and facilitating their participation in cooperatives and other forms of social, economic or financial enterprises;

(g) Develop national strategies to overcome the "digital divide" in each country and ensure that young people are equipped with knowledge and skills to use information and communications technology appropriately, including the capacity to analyse and treat information in creative and innovative ways and to share their expertise, thus enabling them to overcome the barriers of distance and socio-economic disadvantage, while also promoting involvement of young people in creating, repairing, managing and maintaining information and communications technology and providing them access to information on a range of issues that directly affect them, including health, education and employment;

(h) Ensure young women's equal access to education and vocational training at all levels in order to provide them with an equal opportunity to participate in the global economy;

(i) Recognize the rights of young persons with disabilities to education without discrimination and on the basis of equal opportunity, including through

ensuring an inclusive education system at all levels and lifelong learning, and to work, on an equal basis with others;

(j) Consider expanding avenues for regular labour migration, taking into account labour market needs and demographic trends, recognizing the important nexus between migration and development and bearing in mind that young people account for a large number of those migrating;

(k) Take all necessary measures to ensure the rights of young people to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and their access to sustainable health systems and social services, without discrimination, paying special attention to and raising awareness of nutrition, including eating disorders and obesity, and the effects of communicable diseases, and to sexual and reproductive health, including measures to prevent sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS;

(l) Ensure that national policies and programmes on youth development address the particular needs of young people who are in distressed circumstances or otherwise socially excluded or marginalized, including indigenous, migrant, refugee and displaced youth, young persons living in situations of armed conflict, terrorism, hostage-taking, aggression, foreign occupation, civil war or post-conflict settings, young people subjected to racism or xenophobia, street children, poor youth in urban or rural areas and youth affected by natural or man-made disasters;

9. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to support the efforts of Governments, together with civil society, including youth-led organizations, the private sector and other parts of society, to anticipate and offset the negative social and economic consequences of globalization and to maximize its benefits for young people;

10. *Urges* Member States to combat all forms of discrimination against young people, including that based on race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status, and to promote equal opportunities for all;

11. *Underlines* the strategic importance of initiatives such as the Opportunities Fund for Urban Youth-led Development initiative of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme,[9] which will provide resources to mobilize young people to strengthen youth-related policy formulation and to pilot and demonstrate new and innovative approaches to employment, good governance, water and sanitation, adequate shelter and secure tenure, and invites Member States to contribute to the Fund;

12. *Urges* Member States to involve young people and youth-led organizations in the development of national policies that affect them, where appropriate, including poverty reduction strategy papers, where they exist, bearing in mind that girls, boys, young women and young men have the same rights;

13. *Calls upon* Member States to consider using the proposed goals and targets, as contained in the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Goals and targets for monitoring the progress of youth in the global economy",[6] at the national

[9] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 8* (A/62/8), annex I.B, resolution 21/6.

level as a means of facilitating the monitoring of the progress of youth in the global economy and the implementation of the World Programme of Action;

14. *Also calls upon* Member States to ensure the full participation of young people and youth-led organizations in the development of policies designed to meet national youth goals and targets, taking into account the proposed goals and targets contained in the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Goals and targets for monitoring the progress of youth in the global economy", and to collaborate with the United Nations system, young people, youth-led organizations, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders in all efforts to achieve such goals and targets;

15. *Encourages* Member States to collect, on a continuous basis, youth-specific data disaggregated by age and sex, whenever possible, in order to create comprehensive databases within youth ministries or similar offices to assist in measuring progress in implementing the priority areas of the World Programme of Action, and requests the Secretary-General to devise means to widely disseminate such data so as to ensure that the global interest in youth development is informed by sound and adequate data;

16. *Takes note* of the process of collaboration and consultation between Member States, the organizations, programmes, regional commissions and specialized agencies of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations in identifying the proposed goals and targets for measuring youth and the global economy, and recommends continued collaboration, including in the form of high-level training cooperation, between those actors in the implementation of the World Programme of Action and the monitoring of the progress of such implementation;

17. *Stresses* that progress in achieving the internationally agreed target of full and productive employment and decent work for young people should be a central objective of national and international efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, and requests the United Nations agencies, and invites the international community and civil society as well as the private sector, to promote the broader youth development agenda and to strengthen international cooperation in order to support Member States in their efforts to achieve such progress, taking into account that the primary responsibility for ensuring youth development lies with States;

18. *Stresses also* the importance of ensuring that young people are recognized as active agents in decision-making processes and for positive change and development in society, urges Member States, in this regard, to consider including youth representatives in their delegations to all relevant discussions in the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions, bearing in mind the principles of gender balance and non-discrimination, and emphasizes that such youth representatives should be selected through a transparent process which ensures that they have a suitable mandate to represent young people in their countries;

19. *Recognizes* the positive contribution that youth representatives make to the General Assembly and other United Nations bodies and their role as an important channel of communication between young people and the United Nations, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to adequately support the United Nations Programme on Youth of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of

the Secretariat so that it can continue to facilitate their effective participation in meetings;

20. *Recognizes also* the need for a greater geographical balance of youth representation, and encourages Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to contribute to the United Nations Youth Fund in order to facilitate the participation of youth representatives from developing countries;

21. *Recognizes further* that national youth councils or their equivalent bodies are effective channels of cooperation and information exchange between young people, their national Governments and other decision makers and that strong youth councils can provide opportunities for more young people to become active in decision-making and in shaping their societies, in this regard welcomes the political and financial support provided by Member States to their creation and sustained development, and invites all States to continue and to increase such support, where appropriate;

22. *Requests* the Commission for Social Development, at its forty-sixth session, to include youth employment in the discussions on its priority theme "Promoting full employment and decent work for all", taking into account, inter alia, the recommendations on youth employment contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, and invites young people and youth-led organizations to contribute to those discussions;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session, through the Commission for Social Development at its forty-seventh session, on the implementation of the World Programme of Action in the clusters youth in civil society and youth and their well-being and to include in that report a comprehensive set of goals and targets for those clusters based on consultations with Member States as well as the organizations, programmes, regional commissions and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, young people, youth-led organizations and other non-governmental organizations.

Annex

Supplement to the World Programme of Action for Youth

I. Globalization

1. Globalization has opened new opportunities for sustained economic growth and the development of the world economy. Globalization has also permitted countries to share experiences and to learn from one another's achievements and difficulties and has promoted a cross-fertilization of ideas, cultural values and aspirations. Globalization has thus helped to connect youth not only to the rest of the world, but also with each other.

2. At the same time, the rapid processes of change and adjustment of globalization have been accompanied by intensified poverty, unemployment and social disintegration. Threats to human well-being, such as environmental risks, have also been globalized. Some countries have successfully adapted to the changes and benefited from globalization, but many others, especially least developed countries, have remained marginalized in the globalized world economy. The

benefits are very unevenly shared, while the costs are unevenly distributed. Globalization should be fully inclusive and equitable. There is a strong need for appropriate policies and measures at the national and international levels to help countries to respond effectively to the challenges of globalization and the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

3. Many young people, especially in developing countries, remain marginalized from the global economy and lack the capabilities to access the opportunities that globalization offers. Many are restricted by inadequate education, limited skills, unemployment and poverty or are outside the reach of basic information and communication and the goods and services that have become available with globalization.

Proposals for action

Managing the effects of globalization on youth

4. The international community should continue to support the efforts of Governments, together with civil society, including youth-led organizations, the private sector and other parts of society, to anticipate and offset the negative social and economic consequences of globalization and to maximize its benefits for young people.

5. Governments should ensure that access of youth to technical, secondary and higher education is improved and that curricula are adapted to meet the needs of a rapidly changing labour market associated with globalization. The transition from learning to work should also be facilitated.

6. Governments should foster the conditions that provide opportunities, jobs and social services for youth in their home countries. Efforts should be made to guarantee that young migrants enjoy full respect for their human rights, including fair and equal treatment with others and the protection of law against, inter alia, violence, exploitation and discrimination such as racism, ethnocentrism, xenophobia and cultural intolerance, and access to economic opportunities and social services, as appropriate.

Promoting youth employment and skills development in the context of globalization

7. In order to overcome the mismatch between the skills that youth possess and the specialized demands of labour markets shaped by globalization, Governments, with appropriate support from the international community, should provide funding and opportunities in both formal and non-formal education for youth to acquire requisite skills, including through skills development programmes.

8. At the same time, Governments should promote access to work through integrated policies that enable the creation of new and quality jobs for young people and that facilitate access to those jobs.

Establishing ways of monitoring systems to track the effects of globalization on youth

9. Governments should assess the extent to which the benefits of globalization are accessible to youth and should design and implement programmes to enable youth to better harness the benefits of globalization.

II. Information and communications technology

10. Information and communications technology (ICT) and infrastructures are growing in importance as a part of everyday business and interaction. This process can be enhanced by removing barriers to universal, ubiquitous, equitable and affordable access to information, which hinder the bridging of the digital divide, particularly those that impede the full achievement of the economic, social and cultural development of countries and the welfare of their people, especially youth, in particular in developing countries. ICT has enormous potential to expand access to quality education, to boost literacy and universal primary education and to facilitate the learning process itself, thus laying the groundwork for the establishment of a fully inclusive and development-oriented information society and knowledge economy that respects cultural and linguistic diversity.

11. Youth have a particular interest and ability with regard to modern technology. ICT can empower youth by providing them with the opportunity to overcome the barriers of distance and socio-economic disadvantage. Through the Internet, for example, young people can have access to information on a range of issues that directly affect them, including health, education and employment. This information can be used to improve the quality of life of youth and their communities. This process can be facilitated if Governments, civil society, the private sector, families, youth-led organizations and other groups work together to open up avenues for a cultural and social exchange among young people. Governments can also capitalize on the interest of the young in ICT to alleviate poverty. For example, youth can become engaged not only in the use of ICT, but also in the development and engineering of locally relevant software design and hardware.

12. ICT offers new ways to address the needs of youth with disabilities who cannot access traditional sources of information and employment. Vulnerable groups of the population can capitalize on ICT to make a better connection with society and advance their education and employment opportunities.

Proposals for action

Making information and communications technology available to all youth

13. Governments, supported by the international community, as appropriate, should facilitate access to ICT for all youth, including those in difficult-to-reach areas, such as rural areas, and in indigenous communities. Governments should evaluate inequalities in access that exist between urban and rural youth and between young women and men and should develop national strategies to overcome the "digital divide" in each country, thus decreasing the proportion of youth who have no access to ICT.

14. Governments should develop domestic policies to ensure that ICT is fully and appropriately integrated into education and training at all levels, including in

the development of curricula, teacher training and institutional administration and management, as well as in support of the concept of lifelong learning.

15. Governments, with the support of the international community, should promote and encourage local knowledge systems and locally produced content in media and communications, support the development of a wide range of ICT-based programmes in local languages, as appropriate, with content relevant to different groups of young persons, especially young women, and build the capacity of girls and women to develop ICT.

Providing training to facilitate use of information and communications technology

16. Governments, in collaboration with relevant actors in the information society, should ensure that young people are equipped with knowledge and skills to use ICT appropriately, including the capacity to analyse and treat information in creative and innovative ways, to share their expertise and to participate fully in the information society. Efforts should be made to provide special training courses for in-school and out-of-school youth to enable them to become conversant with ICT and to facilitate their use of such technologies.

Protecting youth from the harmful aspects of information and communications technology

17. Governments should strengthen action to protect youth from abuse and to defend their rights in the context of the use of ICT. In that context, the best interests of youth are a primary consideration. Governments should promote responsible behaviour and raise awareness of possible risks for young people arising from the harmful aspects of ICT in order that they may protect themselves from possible exploitation and injury.

18. Governments, in cooperation with relevant actors in the information society, should strengthen action to protect children and youth from abuse and the harmful impact of ICT, in particular through cybercrimes, including child pornography.

Promoting the use of information and communications technology by persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups

19. Governments should facilitate the development of ICT capacity for youth, including indigenous youth, youth with disabilities and youth in remote and rural communities.

20. Governments should initiate the development and use of special technical and legal arrangements to make ICT accessible to all youth, including indigenous youth, youth with disabilities and youth in remote and rural communities.

Empowering young people as key contributors to building an inclusive information society

21. Governments should actively engage youth in innovative ICT-based development programmes and should widen opportunities for youth involvement in e-strategy processes in a manner that encourages youth to assume leadership roles.

The role of youth in creating, repairing, managing and maintaining ICT should also be recognized and encouraged.

22. Bearing in mind that literacy and numeracy are preconditions for access to and effective use of ICT, Governments should promote opportunities through formal and non-formal channels for young persons to acquire the appropriate knowledge.

23. ICT should also be used to enhance education, employment and youth participation in the decision-making process. ICT should be used to improve the quality of education and to better prepare youth for the demands of the information society.

III. HIV/AIDS

24. The HIV/AIDS epidemic is increasingly a problem of youth, especially in parts of the developing world. Governments have noted with grave concern the fact that new HIV infections are heavily concentrated among youth and that there is a lack of information available to help youth understand their sexuality, including their sexual and reproductive health, in order to increase their ability to protect themselves from HIV infection and sexually transmitted diseases and to prevent unwanted pregnancies.

25. Young people, especially young women in Africa, face especially high risks of HIV infection. Young people and women are particularly vulnerable to infection owing to their lack of economic and social power and their lack of the capability to decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality in order to increase their ability to protect themselves from HIV infections. They often lack the tools and information required to avoid infection and cope with AIDS. In 2006, women and girls made up 57 per cent of all people infected with HIV in sub-Saharan Africa, where a striking 76 per cent of young people (aged 15-24) living with HIV are female.

26. Although many children orphaned by AIDS have not yet entered the youth age groups, they are at great risk of becoming youth with severe vulnerabilities. They are subject to malnutrition, illness, abuse, child labour and sexual exploitation, and these factors increase their vulnerability to HIV infection. They also suffer the stigma and discrimination often associated with HIV/AIDS and may be denied education, work, housing and other basic needs as a result.

27. It is imperative that young people continue to have access to evidence- and skills-based youth-specific HIV education to enable them to avoid high-risk behaviour. In some regions youth, especially girls, play a key role in caring for HIV/AIDS patients or their orphans. To ensure that young caregivers stay in school, build their skills and have the chance to generate an income, Governments should provide economic and social support to families that rely on young caregivers as well as support for improving home- and community-based care.

28. Because youth often lack decision-making power and financial resources, they may be the last to receive treatment if they become infected. Programmes should scale up the provision of treatment as part of the promotion of the highest attainable standards of health.

29. It is essential for Governments to implement fully the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth special session in 2001,[10] and to achieve the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals, in particular the goal to halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS by 2015. In addition, Governments should implement the commitments dealing with HIV/AIDS reached at all major United Nations conferences and summits, including the 2005 World Summit and the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS held on 2 June 2006,[11] at which Member States committed themselves to scaling up responses directed towards achieving the goal of universal access to comprehensive prevention programmes, treatment, care and support by 2010 and towards achieving the goal of universal access to reproductive health by 2015, as set out at the International Conference on Population and Development.

Proposals for action

Raising awareness about HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment for youth

30. Governments should ensure that prevention of HIV infection is the mainstay of national, regional and international responses to the pandemic and should therefore commit themselves to intensifying efforts to ensure that a wide range of prevention programmes, which take into account local circumstances, ethics and cultural values, are available in all countries, in particular the most affected countries, including: information, education and communications, in languages most understood within communities and with respect for their cultures, aimed at reducing risk-taking behaviours and encouraging responsible sexual behaviour, including abstinence and fidelity; expanded access to essential commodities, including male and female condoms and sterile injecting equipment; harm-reduction efforts related to drug use; expanded access to voluntary and confidential counselling and testing; safe blood supplies; and early and effective treatment of sexually transmitted infections.

31. Governments should commit themselves to addressing the rising rates of HIV infection among young people in order to ensure that future generations may be free of HIV infection through the implementation of comprehensive evidence-based prevention strategies, responsible sexual behaviour, including the use of condoms, evidence- and skills-based youth-specific HIV education, mass media interventions and the provision of youth-friendly health services.

32. Governments should provide access to the highest attainable standards of affordable and youth-friendly health care in order to increase the capacities of young people to protect themselves from the risk of HIV infection, principally through the provision of health care and health services, including for sexual and reproductive health, in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[12] that integrate HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care and include confidential voluntary counselling and testing and involve young people in the planning, implementation and evaluation of those efforts.

---

[10] Resolution S-26/2, annex.

[11] See resolution 60/262, annex.

[12] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

33. Governments should promote initiatives aimed at reducing the prices of antiretroviral drugs, especially second-line drugs, available to young people, including initiatives undertaken on a voluntary basis by groups of Member States based on innovative financing mechanisms that contribute to the mobilization of resources for social development, including those that aim to provide further drug access at affordable prices to developing countries on a sustainable and predictable basis.

34. In recognition of the fact that HIV/AIDS is increasingly affecting youth in both developed and developing countries, all efforts should be made, in full partnership with young persons, parents, families, educators and health-care providers, to ensure that youth have access to accurate information, education, including peer education and youth-specific HIV education, and services necessary to develop the life skills required to reduce their vulnerability to HIV infection.

35. Governments should involve young people, including youth living with HIV/AIDS, inter alia, through their respective youth organizations and, as appropriate, with the support of their families, in the decision-making, planning, implementation and evaluation of HIV/AIDS prevention and care programmes.

36. Governments should ensure that prevention programmes include counselling for those who are infected with HIV in order to ensure that they take appropriate precautions to prevent the spread of the virus and to help them cope with the effects of living with HIV/AIDS.

Supporting universal HIV/AIDS education, taking gender inequalities into account

37. Trafficking of women and girls for prostitution and sexual slavery increases the vulnerability of young women to HIV/AIDS infection and is linked to the widespread feminization of poverty, sex tourism, sweatshops and other detrimental consequences of globalization. Governments should devise, enforce and strengthen effective youth-sensitive measures to combat, eliminate and prosecute all forms of trafficking in women and girls, including for sexual and economic exploitation, as part of a comprehensive anti-trafficking strategy within wider efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls.

38. Governments should include appropriate information in school curricula and non-formal training programmes on the effects of high-risk behaviour, including intravenous drug use, on the transmission of HIV infection.

39. Governments should give special attention, in all programmes aimed at providing information about and preventing HIV/AIDS among youth, to aspects of gender and to the disproportionate vulnerability of girls and young women.

Legislation and legal instruments to protect vulnerable youth

40. Governments should ensure non-discrimination and full and equal enjoyment of all human rights through the promotion of an active and visible policy of destigmatization of children orphaned and made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS.

41. Governments should strengthen legal, policy, administrative and other measures for the promotion and protection of the full enjoyment of all human rights by youth, the protection of their dignity and the reduction of their vulnerability to

HIV/AIDS through the elimination of all forms of discrimination and all types of sexual exploitation of young girls and boys, including for commercial reasons, as well as all forms of violence against women and girls, including harmful traditional and customary practices, abuse, rape and other forms of sexual violence, battering and trafficking in women and girls.

42. Governments should intensify efforts to enact, strengthen or enforce, as appropriate, legislation, regulations and other measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination and to ensure the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by youth living with HIV, including policies to secure their access to education, inheritance, employment, health care, social and health services, prevention, support and treatment, information and legal protection, while respecting their privacy and confidentiality and developing strategies to combat the stigma and social exclusion connected with the epidemic.

IV. Armed conflict

43. Development, peace and security and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing. The scale of the violence perpetrated against civilians, including youth, in the past couple of decades is extremely worrisome. Armed conflicts have resulted in killings, the massive displacement of people, including youth, and the destruction of communities, which has impacted negatively on their development.

44. Youth are often among the main victims of armed conflict. Children and youth are killed or maimed, made orphans, abducted, taken hostage, forcibly displaced, deprived of education and health care and left with deep emotional scars and trauma. Children illegally recruited as child soldiers are often forced to commit serious abuses. Armed conflict destroys the safe environment provided by a house, a family, adequate nutrition, education and employment. During conflict, health risks increase among youth, especially young women. Young women and girls face additional risks, in particular those of sexual violence and exploitation.

45. During conflict, young men and women who are forced to take on "adult" roles miss out on opportunities for personal or professional development. When conflict ends, many of the young people who must make the transition to adulthood while dealing with the traumas of war are at the same time required to adapt quickly to their new roles, often as parents and caretakers of the victims of war. Without services to help them deal with their situation, youth and young adults may fail to integrate into society.

Proposals for action

Protecting youth under age 18 from direct involvement in armed conflict

46. Governments should ensure that children benefit from an early age from education about values, attitudes, modes of behaviour and ways of life in order to enable them to resolve any dispute peacefully and in a spirit of respect for human dignity, with tolerance and non-discrimination. Governments should promote a culture of peace, tolerance and dialogue, including in both formal and non-formal education.

47. Governments should consider, as a matter of priority, the ratification and effective implementation of the Convention concerning the Prohibition and

Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour 1999 (Convention No. 182) of the International Labour Organization.

48. Governments should take all feasible measures to ensure that members of their armed forces who have not attained the age of 18 years do not take direct part in hostilities and that those who have not attained the age of 18 years are not compulsorily recruited into their armed forces.

49. Governments should take all necessary measures, in accordance with international humanitarian law and human rights law, as a matter of priority, to prevent the recruitment and use of children by armed groups, as distinct from the armed forces of a State, including the adoption of policies that do not tolerate the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict, and the legal measures necessary to prohibit and criminalize such practices.

50. Governments should protect young persons in situations of armed conflict, post-conflict settings and settings involving refugees and internally displaced persons, where youth are at risk of violence and where their ability to seek and receive redress is often restricted, bearing in mind that peace is inextricably linked with equality between young women and young men and development, that armed and other types of conflicts and terrorism and hostage-taking still persist in many parts of the world, and that aggression, foreign occupation and ethnic and other types of conflicts are an ongoing reality affecting young persons in nearly every region, from which they need to be protected.

Providing for the reintegration of youth ex-combatants and protection of non-combatants

51. Governments should provide opportunities for all youth who have been engaged in active combat, whether voluntarily or by force, to demobilize and contribute to society's development if they seek to do so. In this regard, Governments should establish programmes to provide opportunities for youth ex-combatants to retool and retrain so as to facilitate their employment in economic activity and their reintegration into society, including family reunification.

52. Governments should take all appropriate measures to promote physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration of children and young victims of armed conflicts, in particular by restoring access of those children and youth to health care and education, including through "Education for All" programmes, as well as to put in place effective youth employment strategies to help provide a decent living for young people and to facilitate their reintegration into society.

Promoting active involvement of youth in maintaining peace and security

53. Governments should encourage the involvement of young people, where appropriate, in activities concerning the protection of children and youth affected by armed conflict, including programmes for reconciliation, peace consolidation and peacebuilding.

V. Intergenerational issues

54. Many aspects of the demographic transition, global economic development and globalization have influenced opportunities for the intergenerational exchange of knowledge, ideas and resources. The increase in lifespan implies that many adults may be able to share knowledge and resources with younger generations over a longer period of time. In recent times, greater longevity has resulted in situations where many older people live for longer periods in some form of dependency on younger generations. On the other hand, trends in globalization and development have resulted in situations where many young people are cut off from their families. In many developing countries and countries with economies in transition, it is the ageing population that is dominant in rural areas owing to the exodus of young adults. Older persons may be left behind without the traditional support of families and even without adequate financial resources. While older persons lose opportunities to receive support from younger members of families, younger persons also lose opportunities to benefit from the knowledge and guidance of older members of their families.

55. At the family and community levels, intergenerational ties can be valuable for everyone. Individual and family choices, geographical mobility and the pressures of contemporary life can keep people apart, yet the great majority of people in all cultures maintain close relations with their families throughout their lives. These relationships work in both directions, with older persons often providing significant contributions financially, emotionally and in respect of the education and care of grandchildren and other kin, thereby making a crucial contribution to the stability of the family unit.

56. The weakening of intergenerational connections in the context of ageing societies implies that various needs of youth, children and older persons, which may have been supported through intricate and complex familial relationships, are increasingly not being met and are instead becoming the responsibility of the State or the private sector.

57. It is therefore incumbent on Governments and relevant sectors of society to develop programmes that renew or restore intergenerational solidarity. Where there has already been substantial erosion of the ability of communities to meet this objective, Governments should intervene to ensure that basic needs for protection are met.

Proposals for action

Strengthening families

58. While respecting individual preferences for living arrangements, all sectors of society, including Governments, should develop programmes to strengthen families and to foster intergenerational relations.

Empowering young women

59. Governments should promote greater participation by young women in the labour force, including those living in rural and remote areas, by providing and developing the necessary skills to enable them to find employment, especially through taking measures to eliminate male and female stereotypes and through promoting role models, and to facilitate better reconciliation of work and family life.

Strengthening intergenerational solidarity

60. Government and private sector businesses should capitalize on the opportunity to use the experience and skills of older workers to train younger and newer employees.

61. Governments should promote equality and solidarity between generations, including by offering young people full and effective participation in poverty eradication, employment creation and social integration programmes within their societies.

62. All sectors of society should be encouraged to develop reciprocity in learning, which provides older persons with opportunities to learn from younger generations.

63. Where traditional forms of social support have been reduced by migration, globalization and related situations, Governments should work with non-governmental organizations and the private sector to provide assistance and support to older caregivers, especially those providing care for HIV/AIDS orphans, in meeting the needs of their children and grandchildren.

64. Governments should take steps to strengthen solidarity among generations and intergenerational partnerships through the promotion of activities that support intergenerational communication and understanding, and should encourage mutually responsive relationships between generations.

65. The full and effective participation of young people and youth organizations at the local, national, regional and international levels is important for the realization of the Millennium Development Goals, the promotion and implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth, and the evaluation of the progress achieved and the obstacles encountered in its implementation, and for support of the activities of mechanisms that have been set up by young people and youth organizations. Governments should encourage their participation in actions and decisions and in strengthening efforts to implement the World Programme of Action, bearing in mind that girls, boys, young women and young men have the same rights, but different needs and strengths, and that they are active agents in decision-making processes and for positive change and development in society.

Draft resolution II
Implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons: realizing the Millennium Development Goals for persons with disabilities

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions concerning persons with disabilities, particularly resolution 60/131 of 16 December 2005, which recognized the important role of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons[1] in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals,

Recalling also its resolutions on the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities,

Welcoming the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities[2] and its Optional Protocol[3] on 13 December 2006,

Recalling further the 2005 World Summit, held from 14 to 16 September 2005, at which Heads of State and Government, inter alia, expressed their resolve to ensure the timely and full realization of development goals and objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals,[4] and recognizing the importance of incorporating the perspective of persons with disabilities in the implementation of the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits, with a view to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[5]

Aware that there are at least 650 million persons with disabilities worldwide and that the majority of them live in conditions of poverty, and in this regard recognizing the critical need to address the negative impact of poverty on persons with disabilities,

Convinced that addressing the profound social, cultural and economic disadvantage experienced by many persons with disabilities and that promoting progressive removal of barriers to their full and effective participation in all aspects of development will further the equalization of opportunities and contribute to the realization of a "society for all" in the twenty-first century,

Reaffirming the need to include the rights of persons with disabilities in the development efforts at the national, regional and international levels to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and, in this regard, stressing also the need to improve the complementarity and synergy in the implementation of the three main United Nations mechanisms, namely, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, and the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, each of which constitutes an important building block in the steps to achieve

---

[1] Resolution 37/52, by which the General Assembly adopted the World Programme of Action as set forth in A/37/351/Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1, annex, sect. VIII, recommendation I (IV).
[2] Resolution 61/106, annex I.
[3] Resolution 61/106, annex II.
[4] See resolution 60/1, para. 17.
[5] See resolution 55/2.

time-bound and quantifiable commitments set forth in outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields,

Recognizing the importance of the principles and policy guidelines contained in the World Programme of Action, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Standard Rules in influencing the promotion, formulation and evaluation of the policies, plans, programmes and actions at the national, regional and international levels to further equalize opportunities for persons with disabilities,

Convinced that the forthcoming periodic reviews of global progress, as well as obstacles encountered in implementing the outcome of the Millennium Summit, require the inclusion of an evaluation of the measures taken to achieve the Millennium Development Goals as they impact on persons with disabilities,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons;[6]

2. *Welcomes* the work of the Special Rapporteur on disability of the Commission for Social Development;

3. *Calls upon* States that have not yet done so to consider signing and ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol as a matter of priority;

4. *Expresses concern* about the persistent gap between policy and practice regarding mainstreaming the perspective of persons with disabilities, including their rights and well-being, in the work of the United Nations in realizing the Millennium Development Goals;

5. *Encourages* States to involve persons with disabilities on an equal basis with other persons in the formulation of strategies and plans, in particular those pertaining to them;

6. *Encourages* States, in cooperation with, inter alia, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations as well as regional and international finance institutions, and the private sector, as appropriate, to be guided by the objectives of the World Programme of Action as well as those of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities in their work and to examine and ensure that development strategies, policies and programmes aimed at implementing internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, are inclusive of issues concerning persons with disabilities and promote the equalization of opportunities for all by:

(a) Ensuring accessibility, also through reasonable accommodation to enable persons with disabilities to live independently and participate fully in all aspects of life and to participate as agents and beneficiaries of development;

(b) Providing appropriate and accessible social services and safety nets for persons with disabilities to ensure improved well-being for all;

(c) Ensuring an adequate standard of living and social protection for persons with disabilities, including through access to poverty and hunger eradication

[6] A/62/157.

programmes, inclusive quality education, in particular free and compulsory primary education and secondary education, as well as the same range, quality, and standard of free or affordable health care as provided to other persons, and the promotion of full employment and decent work for all;

(d) Promoting and strengthening national capacities for participatory, democratic and accountable processes and mechanisms that further the equalization of opportunities for the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities in civil and political, economic, social and cultural life;

7. *Encourages* States to collect and analyse appropriate information, including statistical and research data that are disaggregated by age and sex, on the situation of persons with disabilities, bearing in mind appropriate protection of personal data, for purposes of policy planning, analysis and evaluation that include the perspective of persons with disabilities, and in this regard invites States to avail themselves of the technical services of the Statistics Division of the United Nations Secretariat;

8. *Urges* relevant entities of the United Nations system, including agencies, funds and programmes, and invites international and regional development finance institutions to take concrete measures to incorporate the perspective of persons with disabilities, including accessibility requirements, in development cooperation and development finance activities;

9. *Reaffirms* the role of the United Nations Voluntary Fund on Disability and encourages States, intergovernmental organizations, concerned non-governmental organizations and the private sector to continue to support the Fund with a view to strengthening its capacity to support catalytic and innovative activities to implement fully the development goals and objectives of the World Programme of Action, the Standard Rules, and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, including the work of the Special Rapporteur, and to facilitate international cooperation, including building national capacities, with emphasis on priorities for action identified in the present resolution;

10. *Encourages* all relevant parties to bear in mind the situation of persons with disabilities in the United Nations system-wide coherence discussions, without prejudice to the outcome of those discussions;

11. *Calls upon* States to include in country reports, in connection with the forthcoming periodic reviews of progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, a review and evaluation of the impact of development efforts on the rights, well-being and livelihood of persons with disabilities;

12. *Reaffirms* its commitment to respect and promote, without discrimination, the rights of indigenous persons with disabilities and urges States to take effective measures to continue to improve their economic and social conditions;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to give higher priority to concerns and issues of persons with disabilities and their inclusion within the work programme of the United Nations system and within existing resources, and to strengthen the role of the United Nations and its development programmes and agencies in mainstreaming disability issues, taking into account the perspective of persons with disabilities within the work of the United Nations system through:

(a) Promoting the inclusion of the perspective of persons with disabilities in the policies, programmes and projects of the Secretariat and the other United Nations bodies and agencies on a broader scale and with higher priority, on the basis of a holistic approach in the work done in the fields of social development, human rights and non-discrimination, and in this regard ensuring that the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses is inclusive of the perspective of persons with disabilities;

(b) Further strengthening action in all countries and providing assistance to developing countries, in particular to least developed countries, with special attention to persons with disabilities in vulnerable circumstances;

(c) Assisting Member States in formulating comprehensive and coherent policies and action plans, as well as projects, including pilot projects, that promote, inter alia, international cooperation and technical assistance, particularly to enhance the capacities of government agencies, as well as civil society, including organizations of persons with disabilities, to implement programmes on disability;

14. *Decides* that the fifth review and appraisal of the World Programme of Action, to be conducted by the General Assembly in 2008, shall direct special attention to the issues raised in the present resolution;

15. A*lso decides* to rename the International Day of Disabled Persons, observed every year on 3 December, the International Day of Persons with Disabilities;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) To submit an analytical and policy-oriented report on the fifth review and appraisal of the World Programme of Action at its sixty-third session as a contribution to the forthcoming periodic reviews of the progress as well as obstacles encountered in implementing the goals of the Millennium Summit, particularly the Millennium Development Goals;

(b) To present, as an annex to the report requested in paragraph 16 (a), proposed updates of the World Programme of Action, in accordance with paragraph 201 of the World Programme of Action, bearing in mind the current situation of persons with disabilities around the world, as well as the developments in the global policy framework regarding persons with disabilities, including the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Draft resolution III
Cooperatives in social development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 47/90 of 16 December 1992, 49/155 of 23 December 1994, 51/58 of 12 December 1996, 54/123 of 17 December 1999, 56/114 of 19 December 2001, 58/131 of 22 December 2003 and 60/132 of 16 December 2005 concerning cooperatives in social development,

Recognizing that cooperatives, in their various forms, promote the fullest possible participation in economic and social development of all people, including women, youth, older people, people with disabilities and indigenous peoples, are becoming a major factor of economic and social development and contribute to the eradication of poverty,

Recognizing also the important contribution and potential of all forms of cooperatives to the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women, the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), including their five-year reviews, the World Food Summit, the Second World Assembly on Ageing, the International Conference on Financing for Development, the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the 2005 World Summit,

Noting with appreciation the potential role of cooperative development in the improvement of the social and economic conditions of the indigenous peoples and rural communities,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on cooperatives in social development;[1]

2. *Draws the attention* of Member States to the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General for further action to promote the growth of cooperatives as business and social enterprises that can contribute to sustainable development, eradication of poverty and livelihoods in various economic sectors in urban and rural areas and provide support for the creation of cooperatives in new and emerging areas;

3. *Encourages* Governments to keep under review, as appropriate, the legal and administrative provisions governing the activities of cooperatives in order to enhance the growth and sustainability of cooperatives in a rapidly changing socio-economic environment through, inter alia, providing a level playing field for cooperatives vis-à-vis other business and social enterprises, including appropriate tax incentives and access to financial services and markets;

4. *Urges* Governments, relevant international organizations and the specialized agencies, in collaboration with national and international cooperative organizations, to give due consideration to the role and contribution of cooperatives in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women, the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), including their five-year reviews, the World Food Summit, the Second World Assembly on Ageing, the International Conference on Financing for Development, the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the 2005 World Summit by, inter alia:

[1] A/62/154.

(a) Utilizing and developing fully the potential and contribution of cooperatives for the attainment of social development goals, in particular the eradication of poverty, the generation of full and productive employment and the enhancement of social integration;

(b) Encouraging and facilitating the establishment and development of cooperatives, including taking measures aimed at enabling people living in poverty or belonging to vulnerable groups, including women, youth, persons with disabilities, older persons and indigenous peoples, to fully participate, on a voluntary basis, in cooperatives and to address their social service needs;

(c) Taking appropriate measures aimed at creating a supportive and enabling environment for the development of cooperatives by, inter alia, developing an effective partnership between Governments and the cooperative movement through joint consultative councils and/or advisory bodies and by promoting and implementing better legislation, research, sharing of good practices, training, technical assistance and capacity-building of cooperatives, especially in the fields of management, auditing and marketing skills;

(d) Raising public awareness of the contribution of cooperatives to employment generation and to socio-economic development and promoting comprehensive research and statistical data-gathering on the activities, employment and overall socio-economic impact of cooperatives at the national and international levels;

5. *Invites* Governments, in collaboration with the cooperative movement, to develop programmes aimed at enhancing capacity-building of cooperatives, including through strengthening the organizational management and financial skills of their members, and to introduce and support programmes to improve the access of cooperatives to new technologies;

6. *Invites* Governments, relevant international organizations, the specialized agencies and local, national and international cooperative organizations to continue to observe the International Day of Cooperatives annually, on the first Saturday of July, as proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/90;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the relevant United Nations and other international organizations and national, regional and international cooperative organizations, to continue rendering support to Member States, as appropriate, in their efforts to create a supportive environment for the development of cooperatives, providing assistance for human resources development, technical advice and training and promoting an exchange of experience and best practices through, inter alia, conferences, workshops and seminars at the national and regional levels;

8. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States and the relevant international organizations, to consider effective ways and means of raising public awareness of the overall socio-economic impact of cooperatives, including the desirability and the feasibility of proclaiming an International Year of Cooperatives, and to report thereon to the General Assembly;

9. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

Draft resolution IV
Follow-up to the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and beyond

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/82 of 8 December 1989, 50/142 of 21 December 1995, 52/81 of 12 December 1997, 54/124 of 17 December 1999, 56/113 of 19 December 2001, 57/164 of 18 December 2002, 58/15 of 3 December 2003, 59/111 of 6 December 2004, 59/147 of 20 December 2004 and 60/133 of 16 December 2005 concerning the proclamation of the International Year of the Family and the preparations for, observance of and follow-up to the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family,

Noting that in paragraph 5 of its resolution 59/111 and paragraph 2 of its resolution 59/147, respectively, the General Assembly underlined the need to realize the objectives of the International Year of the Family and to develop concrete measures and approaches to address national priorities in dealing with family issues,

Noting also that the family-related provisions of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits of the 1990s and their follow-up processes continue to provide policy guidance on ways to strengthen family-centred components of policies and programmes as part of an integrated comprehensive approach to development,

Recognizing that the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2004 constituted an important opportunity to strengthen and enhance the effectiveness of efforts at all levels to carry out specific programmes within the framework of the objectives of the Year,

Aware that a major objective of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family is to strengthen national institutions in formulating, implementing and monitoring policies in respect of families,

Recognizing the need for additional capacity-building at the national and regional levels in order to promote and facilitate the implementation of the mandated objectives of the International Year of the Family, taking into account that national capacity development in the area of family policymaking continues to be a major concern for many countries,

Convinced of the necessity of ensuring an action-oriented follow-up to the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family beyond 2004,

Recognizing the important catalytic and supportive role of United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies and the regional commissions in ensuring an action-oriented follow-up in the field of the family,

Cognizant of the need for continued inter-agency cooperation on family issues in order to generate greater awareness of this subject among the governing bodies of the United Nations system,

Convinced that civil society, including research and academic institutions, has a pivotal role in advocacy, promotion, research and policymaking in respect of family policy development and capacity-building,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General,[1]

1. *Encourages* Governments to continue to make every possible effort to realize the objectives of the International Year of the Family and to integrate a family perspective into national policymaking;

2. *Commends* the important contribution made by all Member States at all levels to realize the objectives of the International Year of the Family, and in this regard welcomes the efforts by Member States to pursue these objectives, including those of the Government of Qatar, which has established an International Institute for Family Studies and Development;

3. *Urges* Member States to create a conducive environment to strengthen and support all families, recognizing that equality between women and men and respect for all the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all family members are essential to family well-being and to society at large, noting the importance of reconciliation of work and family life and recognizing the principle that both parents have common responsibilities for the upbringing and development of the child;

4. *Invites* Governments to continue to develop strategies and programmes aimed at strengthening national capacities to address national priorities relating to family issues, and encourages the United Nations Programme on the Family within its mandate to assist Governments in this regard, including through the provision of technical assistance to build and develop national capacities in the area of formulating, implementing and monitoring family policies;

5. *Encourages* Governments to support the United Nations Trust Fund on Family Activities to enable the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat to provide expanded assistance to countries, upon their request;

6. *Recommends* that United Nations agencies and bodies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, research and academic institutions and the private sector play a supportive role in promoting the objectives of the International Year of the Family and contribute to developing strategies and programmes aimed at strengthening national capacities;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session;

8. *Decides* to consider the topic "Follow-up to the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family" at its sixty-fourth session under the item entitled "Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family".

[1] A/62/132 and Add.1.

Draft resolution V
Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 57/167 of 18 December 2002, in which it endorsed the Political Declaration and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002,[1] its resolution 58/134 of 22 December 2003, in which it took note, inter alia, of the road map for the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, and its resolutions 60/135 of 16 December 2005 and 61/142 of 19 December 2006,

Recalling also Commission for Social Development resolution 42/1 of 13 February 2004,[2] in which the Commission decided to undertake the review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action every five years,

Mindful that, in its resolution 44/1 of 17 February 2006,[3] the Commission for Social Development decided to start the first global cycle of review and appraisal in 2007 at its forty-fifth session and to conclude it in 2008 at its forty-sixth session,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing,[4]

1. *Encourages* Governments to pay greater attention to building capacity to eradicate poverty among older persons, particularly older women, by mainstreaming ageing issues into poverty eradication strategies and national development plans, and to include both ageing-specific policies and ageing-mainstreaming efforts in their review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002[5] and in their national strategies;

2. *Stresses* that, in order to complement national development efforts, enhanced international cooperation is essential to support developing countries in implementing the Madrid Plan of Action, while recognizing the importance of assistance and the provision of financial assistance;

3. *Calls upon* Member States to actively take part in the participatory bottom-up approach of the review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action, through, inter alia, sharing ideas, data collection and best practices and reporting on them to the Commission for Social Development at its forty-sixth session in 2008;

4. *Encourages* the United Nations regional commissions to consolidate the national findings of the review and appraisal by involving, inter alia, representatives of organizations of older persons from various regions that are directly involved in the participatory bottom-up review and appraisal exercise;

5. *Invites* Governments to conduct their ageing-related policies through inclusive consultations with relevant stakeholders and social development partners, in the interest of creating national policy ownership and consensus-building;

---

[1] *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8-12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[2] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2004, Supplement No. 6* (E/2004/26), chap. I, sect. E.

[3] Ibid., *2006, Supplement No. 6* (E/2006/26), chap. I, sect. C.

[4] A/62/131 and Corr.1.

[5] *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8-12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

6. *Encourages* the international community to support national efforts to forge stronger partnerships with civil society, including organizations of older persons, academia, research foundations, community-based organizations, including caregivers, and the private sector, in an effort to help to build capacity on ageing issues;

7. *Encourages* the international community and the relevant agencies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, to support national efforts to provide funding for research and data-collection initiatives on ageing in order to better understand the challenges and opportunities presented by population ageing and to provide policymakers with more accurate and more specific information on gender and ageing;

8. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen their efforts to develop national capacity to address their national implementation priorities identified during the review and appraisal exercise, and invites Member States that have not done so to consider a step-by-step approach to developing capacity that includes the setting of national priorities, the strengthening of institutional mechanisms, research, data collection and analysis and the training of necessary personnel in the field of ageing;

9. *Stresses* the need for additional capacity-building at the national level in order to promote and facilitate implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, and in this connection encourages Governments to support the United Nations Trust Fund for Ageing to enable the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat to provide expanded assistance to countries, upon their request;

10. *Calls upon* Governments to ensure, as appropriate, conditions that enable families and communities to provide care and protection to persons as they age and to evaluate improvement in the health status of older persons, including on a gender-specific basis, and to reduce disability and mortality;

11. *Reiterates* that ongoing efforts to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[6] take into account the situation of older persons;

12. *Recommends* to the Commission for Social Development to include in the deliberations of its forty-sixth session in 2008 the outcomes of the first cycle of the review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action, including identifying progress made and obstacles encountered during the first five years of the implementation process;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session a report on the implementation of the present resolution and to submit to the Commission for Social Development at its forty-seventh session a report on the analysis of the conclusions of the first review and appraisal exercise, including a strategic implementation framework based on an analysis of national activities since 2002, in order to provide identification of policy priorities for the future and the identification of measures for international cooperation to support national implementation activities.

[6] See resolution 55/2.

Draft resolution VI
Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Recalling the World Summit for Social Development, held at Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world", held at Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,

Reaffirming that the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action[1] and the further initiatives for social development adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth special session,[2] as well as a continued global dialogue on social development issues, constitute the basic framework for the promotion of social development for all at the national and international levels,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration[3] and the development goals contained therein, as well as the commitments made at major United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions, including the commitments made at the 2005 World Summit,[4]

Recalling also its resolution 60/209 of 22 December 2005 on the implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006),

Recalling further its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

Noting with appreciation the ministerial declaration adopted at the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2006 of the Economic and Social Council, on "Creating an environment at the national and international levels conducive to generating full and productive employment and decent work for all, and its impact on sustainable development",[5]

Noting that the decent work agenda of the International Labour Organization, with its four strategic objectives, is an important instrument to achieve the objective of full and productive employment and decent work for all,

Emphasizing the need to enhance the role of the Commission for Social Development in the follow-up and review of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly,

---

[1] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[2] Resolution S-24/2, annex.

[3] See resolution 55/2.

[4] See resolution 60/1.

[5] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/61/3/Rev.1), chap. III, para. 50.

Recognizing that a people-centred approach must be at the centre of economic and social development,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[6]

2. *Welcomes* the reaffirmation by Governments of their will and commitment to continue implementing the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action,[1] in particular to eradicate poverty, promote full and productive employment and foster social integration to achieve stable, safe and just societies for all;

3. *Recognizes* that the implementation of the Copenhagen commitments and the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, are mutually reinforcing and that the Copenhagen commitments are crucial to a coherent people-centred approach to development;

4. *Reaffirms* that the Commission for Social Development continues to have the primary responsibility for the follow-up and review of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly and that it serves as the main United Nations forum for an intensified global dialogue on social development issues, and calls upon Member States, the relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and civil society to enhance their support for its work;

5. *Recognizes* that the broad concept of social development affirmed by the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly has been weakened in national and international policymaking and that, while poverty eradication is a central part of development policy and discourse, further attention should be given to the other commitments agreed to at the Summit, in particular those concerning employment and social integration, which have also suffered from a general disconnect between economic and social policymaking;

6. *Acknowledges* that the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006), launched after the World Summit for Social Development, has provided the long-term vision for sustained and concerted efforts at the national and international levels to eradicate poverty, and recognizes that the implementation of the commitments made by Governments during the Decade has fallen short of expectations;

7. *Emphasizes* that the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the Millennium Summit, the 2005 World Summit, as well as the International Conference on Financing for Development, in its Monterrey Consensus,[7] have reinforced the priority and urgency of poverty eradication within the United Nations development agenda;

8. *Also emphasizes* that poverty eradication policies should attack poverty by addressing its root and structural causes and manifestations, and that equity and the reduction of inequalities need to be incorporated in those policies;

---

[6] A/62/122.

[7] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

9. *Stresses* that an enabling environment is a critical precondition for achieving equity and social development and that, while economic growth is essential, entrenched inequality and marginalization are an obstacle to the broad-based and sustained growth required for sustainable, inclusive people-centred development, and recognizes the need to balance and ensure complementarity between measures to achieve growth and measures to achieve economic and social equity in order for there to be an impact on overall poverty levels;

10. *Recognizes* the need to promote respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms in order to address the most pressing social needs of people living in poverty, including through the design and development of appropriate mechanisms to strengthen and consolidate democratic institutions and governance;

11. *Reaffirms* the commitment to the empowerment of women and gender equality, as well as to the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into all development efforts, recognizing that these are critical for achieving sustainable development and for efforts to combat hunger, poverty and disease and to strengthen policies and programmes that improve, ensure and broaden the full participation of women in all spheres of political, economic, social and cultural life, as equal partners, and to improve their access to all resources needed for the full exercise of all their human rights and fundamental freedoms by removing persistent barriers, including ensuring equal access to full and productive employment and decent work, as well as strengthening their economic independence;

12. *Also reaffirms* the commitment to employment strategies and macroeconomic policies that actively promote opportunities for full, freely chosen and productive employment, including for the most disadvantaged, as well as decent work for all, in order to deliver social justice combined with economic efficiency, with full respect for fundamental principles and rights at work under conditions of equity, equality, security and dignity, and further reaffirms that employment creation should be incorporated into macroeconomic policies, taking fully into account the social impact and dimension of globalization;

13. *Further reaffirms* that there is an urgent need to create an environment at the national and international levels that is conducive to the attainment of full and productive employment and decent work for all as a foundation for sustainable development and that an environment that supports investment, growth and entrepreneurship is essential to the creation of new job opportunities, and also reaffirms that opportunities for men and women to obtain productive work in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity are essential to ensuring the eradication of hunger and poverty, the improvement of economic and social well-being for all, the achievement of sustained economic growth and sustainable development of all nations and a fully inclusive and equitable globalization;

14. *Stresses* the importance of removing obstacles to the realization of the right of peoples to self-determination, in particular of people living under colonial or other forms of alien domination or foreign occupation, which adversely affect their social and economic development, including their exclusion from labour markets;

15. *Reaffirms* that violence, in its many manifestations, including domestic violence, especially against women, children, older persons and people with disabilities, is a growing threat to the security of individuals, families and

communities everywhere; total social breakdown is an all too real contemporary experience; organized crime, illegal drugs, the illicit arms trade, trafficking in women and children, ethnic and religious conflict, civil war, terrorism, all forms of extremist violence, xenophobia, and politically motivated killing and even genocide present fundamental threats to societies and the global social order; they also present compelling and urgent reasons for action by Governments individually and, as appropriate, jointly to foster social cohesion while recognizing, protecting and valuing diversity;

16. *Recognizes* that full and productive employment and decent work for all, which encompass social protection, fundamental principles and rights at work and social dialogue, are key elements of sustainable development for all countries and are therefore a priority objective of international cooperation;

17. *Stresses* that policies and programmes designed to achieve poverty eradication, full employment and decent work for all should include specific measures to foster social integration, including by providing marginalized socio-economic sectors and groups with equal access to opportunities and social protection;

18. *Acknowledges* the important nexus between international migration and social development, and stresses the importance of enforcing labour law effectively with regard to migrant workers' labour relations and working conditions, inter alia, those related to their remuneration and conditions of health, safety at work and the right to freedom of association;

19. *Reaffirms* that social integration policies should seek to reduce inequalities, promote access to basic social services, education for all and health care, increase the participation and integration of social groups, particularly youth, older persons and persons with disabilities, and address the challenges posed by globalization and market-driven reforms to social development in order for all people in all countries to benefit from globalization;

20. *Also reaffirms* the commitment to promote the rights of indigenous peoples in the areas of education, employment, housing, sanitation, health and social security, and also noting the attention paid to those areas in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;[8]

21. *Recognizes* the need to formulate social development policies in an integral, articulated and participative manner, recognizing poverty as a multidimensional phenomenon, calls for interlinked public policies on this matter, and underlines the need for public policies to be included in a comprehensive development and well-being strategy;

22. *Acknowledges* the important role the public sector can play as an employer and in developing an environment that enables the effective generation of full and productive employment and decent work for all;

23. *Also acknowledges* the vital role the private sector can play in generating new investments, employment and financing for development and in advancing efforts towards full employment and decent work;

[8] Resolution 61/295, annex.

24. *Recognizes* that the majority of poor people live and work in rural areas, that priority should be given to agricultural and non-farm sectors and that steps should be taken to anticipate and offset the negative social and economic consequences of globalization and to maximize its benefits for poor people living and working in rural areas;

25. *Reaffirms* the commitments made in respect of "Meeting the special needs of Africa" at the 2005 World Summit,[9] underlines the call of the Economic and Social Council for enhanced coordination within the United Nations system and the ongoing efforts to harmonize the current initiatives on Africa, and requests the Commission for Social Development to continue to give due prominence in its work to the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;[10]

26. *Also reaffirms* that each country has the primary responsibility for its own economic and social development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized, and underlines the importance of adopting effective measures, including new financial mechanisms, as appropriate, to support the efforts of developing countries to achieve sustained economic growth, sustainable development, poverty eradication and the strengthening of their democratic systems;

27. *Further reaffirms*, in this context, that international cooperation has an essential role in assisting developing countries, including the least developed countries, in strengthening their human, institutional and technological capacity;

28. *Stresses* that the international community shall enhance its efforts to create an enabling environment for social development and poverty eradication through increasing market access for developing countries, technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, financial aid and a comprehensive solution to the external debt problem;

29. *Acknowledges* that good governance and the rule of law at the national and international levels are essential for sustained economic growth, sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and hunger;

30. *Urges* developed countries that have not yet done so in accordance with their commitments, to make concrete efforts towards meeting the targets of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for official development assistance to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.2 per cent of their gross national product to least developed countries, and encourages developing countries to build on the progress achieved in ensuring that official development assistance is used effectively to help meet development goals and targets;

31. *Welcomes* the contribution to the mobilization of resources for social development by the initiatives on a voluntary basis taken by groups of Member States based on innovative financing mechanisms, including those that aim to provide further drug access at affordable prices to developing countries on a sustainable and predictable basis, such as the International Drug Purchase Facility, UNITAID, as well as other initiatives, such as the International Finance Facility for Immunisation, and notes the New York Declaration of 20 September 2004, which launched the Action against Hunger and Poverty initiative and called for further

[9] See resolution 60/1, para. 68.

[10] A/57/304, annex.

attention to raise funds urgently needed to help meet the Millennium Development Goals and to complement and ensure long-term stability and predictability to foreign aid;

32. *Reaffirms* that social development requires the active involvement of all actors in the development process, including civil society organizations, corporations and small businesses, and that partnerships among all relevant actors are increasingly becoming part of national and international cooperation for social development, and also reaffirms that, within countries, partnerships among the Government, civil society and the private sector can contribute effectively to the achievement of social development goals;

33. *Underlines* the responsibility of the private sector, at both the national and the international levels, including small and large companies and transnational corporations, regarding not only the economic and financial but also the development, social, gender and environmental implications of their activities, their obligations towards their workers and their contributions to achieving sustainable development, including social development, and emphasizes the need to take concrete actions on corporate responsibility and accountability, including through the participation of all relevant stakeholders, inter alia, for the prevention or prosecution of corruption;

34. *Invites* the Secretary-General, the Economic and Social Council, the regional commissions, the relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental forums, within their respective mandates, to continue to integrate into their work programmes and give priority attention to the Copenhagen commitments and the Declaration on the tenth anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development,[11] to continue to be actively involved in their follow-up and to monitor the achievement of those commitments and undertakings;

35. *Invites* the Commission for Social Development to emphasize in its review of the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action the increased exchange of national, regional and international experiences, the focused and interactive dialogues among experts and practitioners and the sharing of best practices and lessons learned;

36. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-third session the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly", and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on the question to the Assembly at that session.

[11] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 6* (E/2005/26), chap. I, sect. A; see also Economic and Social Council decision 2005/234.

48. The Third Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report on the World Social Situation 2007

The General Assembly takes note of the *Report on the World Social Situation 2007: The Employment Imperative*.[1]

---

[1] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.07.IV.9. See also document A/62/168 for a summary.